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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. June 1914.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(10443.)

PART XII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

TURKISH WAR.

September to December 1913.

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office *December* 1913.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Turkish War

Part XII.

[40220] No. 1.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 10.)

Sir, *Cettinje, August 1, 1913.*

HIS Minister for Foreign Affairs M. Tomanitz, spoke to me this morning respecting affairs in North Albania. He informed me that the Servian and Montenegrin troops at Durazzo, and all private property, had left. Also that the country of the Kraina tribe of Mirdites Albanians was within the sphere of influence of Servia, of organising a movement against Montenegro either at Ipek or at Djakova. The Montenegrin garrisons had already been withdrawn. The Hoti and Kastrati tribes were perfectly quiet, as also the Klimenti. In the Scutari district there was a good deal of anxiety as to Montenegrin movements, but it was not shared among the Albanians themselves, who were strongly prejudiced against the Servians, especially among the clergy, and an attack on Montenegro by Servia was predicted. If the Allies should not cease to be Montenegrin Government would have recourse to foreign advisers.

At the same interview the King took an opportunity of speaking to me in the most friendly manner. The Malissors, instigated no doubt by Austria, were, he declared, preparing to rise on his territory. His Majesty was therefore anxious that there should be no further delay in sending troops to the Scutari district. He was prepared to do anything to help on the Allies, whose cause was entirely just. We did not right. I answered that the Powers were considering His Majesty's proposal, but were of opinion that the Allies were entitled, among themselves, to the benefit of their conquests.

The story respecting the three days' attack on Montenegrin territory and both the King and M. Tomanitz stated were pressed hard by the Austrians to withdraw from the line marked on the sketch-map by the Powers' Commission, and to take up a position which would have left Montenegro in possession of the most important part of the Albanian territory. They declined to do so, and the Austrians then withdrew their demand. It may be remarked that the Austrian members of the Commission for the delimitation of the new frontier are personally opposed to Montenegro's claims. It is desirable that it should be made clear to the Austrian Government that Montenegro is not a danger to the peace of Europe. Every attempt on their part to bring Montenegro into accord with the views of Austrian interests in Albania, and thus relieve existing tension between Vienna and St. Petersburg, will be welcomed by the Montenegrin Government. Such tendencies would, of course, find no support here, but would only serve to play off the one against the other.

Other complaints of hostile acts or intentions of the Christian Albanians have been made to me. A correspondent has given to me an account of the sacrilegious desecration by them of the graves of the Montenegrin soldiers at Bardanjoli, which it was stated on another occasion that an organised attack was being prepared on the outlying Orthodox Slav village of Vraka, in the plain before Scutari. On personal investigation by Admiral Burney it proved that there was no truth in either story.

The [illegible] to [illegible] of the [illegible] attitude towards the [illegible] clergy and the [illegible] to accept Montenegrin rule in the [illegible] at Vienna [illegible] the Emperor to the Archbishop of Scutari, [illegible] having thanked His Majesty for the part played by his Government in the liberation of the town from the Montenegrins. The statement of the Archbishop which has not so far been contradicted, is of course a complete [illegible] of the sentiments attributed to [illegible] by the Montenegrin delegates in their communications to you in the [illegible] of January during the siege, when no communication with the town was possible.

In [illegible] to these matters M. de Giers, the Russian Minister, said that Russia had had more than enough of these [illegible] of the [illegible]. If the Montenegrins now had trouble with the Moslems and the Catholics they had themselves to blame. [illegible] the King was [illegible] trying to make himself the centre of European interest. [illegible] such efforts the better, [illegible] as little notice as possible should be taken of them.

The same complaints of the [illegible] of Austria [illegible] up the Catholic clergy against Montenegro were [illegible] by the French Minister, M. [illegible] Vernet, who [illegible] that the Montenegrins had murdered at least one priest and had [illegible] persecution against others [illegible] to drive their flocks into the Orthodox Church [illegible] the Catholic cathedral at Scutari. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] by King [illegible] had they [illegible] from the fertile [illegible] masters. [illegible] letter respecting the conduct of the Montenegrin troops when the country of Plava-Gusinje was taken during the war may throw some light on the causes to which this situation may be due.

I have, &c.

J. DE SALIS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1

Miss Durham to Count de Salis.

(Extract.) *Scutari, August 1, 1913*

A PITIABLE creature arrived the day before yesterday at the Austrian hospital [illegible]. He is a young Moslem of Plava, and must have been a rather [illegible]. The poor wretch, together with some dozen others, was shot down [illegible] by the Montenegrins, who then proceeded to bayonet the lot. All died [illegible] he came to after he does not know how long, and tried to get up. Some Montenegrins saw him, and seizing his nose, cut it and his upper lip flat

3

off [illegible]. An officer actually [illegible] the [illegible] his speech is very [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] stories of the [illegible] of Albanians by the Montenegrin troops. [illegible] during the war [illegible] near [illegible] [illegible] with the troops in the earlier stages of the war [illegible] [illegible]

There are stories [illegible] of atrocities committed by the Servians.

[illegible] S.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

Miss Durham to Count de Salis.

(Extract.) *Scutari, August 11, 1913*

[illegible]

[illegible] belonging to the mountains, and not to Gusinje.

[40221] No. 2

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 50.)

Sir, *Cettinje, August 19, 1913*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch No. [illegible] of the 8th August recording the representations made [illegible] to Sir Arthur Nicolson. It is claimed that the northern and north-eastern frontier of Albania should be materially modified in order to satisfy the legitimate aspirations

of Montenegro. Among other changes deemed to be necessary, the Klementi tribe must cede to Montenegro, the Kuchnots desiring nothing better.

I cannot confirm this statement, which appears to me to be in direct opposition to the true state of the case. According to such notes on the subject as I have been able to make here, three of the principal districts—Spizze, Vukli, and Ploga—are Catholic, while the fourth,—Nikshich—is half Moslem. The Catholic clergy are hostile to Montenegrin rule, the fact is notorious, and it seems unnecessary to speculate here whether this hostility is due to the intrigues of Austrian diplomacy or to the more obvious reasons supplied by the conduct of the Montenegrins themselves towards the Christian Albanians. A Moslem minority might conceivably be have looked to King Nicholas for support, but is improbable that they should do so now, in view of the war of extermination carried on by the Montenegrins against the Moslem inhabitants of the neighbouring districts of Gussinje and Plava.

The Montenegrin Government recently asked the Italian Legation to support a suggestion that they might be allowed to exchange territory in the Hutti and Gruda country for territory in Albania. This proposal would provide a solution to the difficulty which threatens the success of the arbitration Commission owing to the opposition of Montenegro to the two international roads through the disputed districts, and would be of great advantage to Montenegro, but I am not aware that it has been seriously considered by the Montenegrin Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS

40191 No. 7

Mr. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. (Received September 1.)

No. 10.

Sir, Sofia, August 12, 1913.

With reference to my despatch No. 1 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, a report from Servian sources, dated Egri Palanka, 9th August, 1913, on the Servian attack on Egri Palanka.

Your Excellency will see that it is impossible to verify the statements of fact contained in this report, but it is only fair to state that they do actually represent the case as it was presented to Mr. Mackenzie and myself by the Servian officers who were in command at Egri Palanka. The Bulgarian version of the affair is that the Servians attacked Egri Palanka without any provocation whatever, and that the Bulgarian troops were withdrawn from the town in order to avoid bloodshed. The Bulgarian version is also that the Servians, after occupying the town, committed numerous atrocities on the Bulgarian inhabitants, and that the Bulgarian troops were subsequently ordered to recapture the town.

As I said in my despatch No. 1, I have no doubt that the Servians committed many atrocities, but I am not prepared to say that the Bulgarian version of the affair is entirely correct. The Bulgarian troops were withdrawn from the town, and it is probable that the Servians, after occupying the town, committed many atrocities on the Bulgarian inhabitants, and that the Bulgarian troops were subsequently ordered to recapture the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WORFILLY

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* Not printed.

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[40166] No. 4

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September)

(No. 743.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 29, 1913.*

I CALLED on the Grand Vizier this morning, and spoke to His Highness in the sense indicated in your telegram No. of the 28th instant. His Highness received the assurance which you already conveyed to Hakki Pasha, and, in reply, he remarked that certain units of the Turkish troops were considering to leave the neighbourhood of the Maritza, Dedeagatch, and Gumuldjina districts. They were anxious to get the question of the possession of these districts settled as soon as possible, and would voluntarily have withdrawn their troops long ago, but they were afraid that, if they did so, the Bulgarians would immediately occupy the country. They would now withdraw their troops from the districts in question.

His Highness also remarked that he was sure that Bulgaria would not be willing to engage in a war with Roumania, which would be unofficially encouraging Greece and Servia to interfere with Bulgaria's proposals to expel Turkey from Europe. His Highness also argued that Bulgaria's arguments as to the treaty of London

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES MARLING

[40185 No. 2

Mr. C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey. (Received September 1.)

(No. 92.)

Sir, *Bucharest, August 30, 1913.*

ALTHOUGH it was not strictly necessary that any reply should be given to the assertions of the treaty of peace of the 10th instant, I may not think it out of place briefly to review what has occurred in Roumania since the outbreak of the present hostilities upon the news that it was decided by the treaty

His Majesty King Carol had always been disposed to say that Roumania was a Balkan State. His Majesty had never made any secret of his disapproval of Bulgaria's aggrandisement in the acquisition of Macedonia and Thrace, necessary as strategic necessities, and recognition of the Bulgarian claim to Dedeagatch was in favour. When, therefore, it became evident that Bulgaria was endeavouring to attain the hegemony of the Balkans, Roumania felt that the time for action had arrived. In this sense Roumania was shown directly to the Roumanian advice given by Austria, but, however much King Charles may have desired, it was not according to the susceptibilities of Roumania the current of public opinion from the Government. Nearly [illegible] last night Roumania received that it had been secured by a definite offer from Bulgaria to cede to Turkey Baltadji in order to mediate, it was of straightforwardness on the part of the latter to expedite all hopes of a peaceful solution.

Roumania's actual reason for intervention was to prevent Servia and Greece from being crushed by Bulgaria, but when the reverse seemed probable she preferred herself to put an end to the action of the victorious parties. In fact, Roumania's action undertaken just in time to check Bulgaria's greed was mainly directed against that of Greece and Servia, and the restraining influence she ultimately exercised over the two countries, the moderation she herself showed in her demands for some never departed from those she originally made—and the promptitude with which she compelled the belligerents to come to terms give her a right to considerable gratitude on the part of

[illegible] Europe [illegible] Peace [illegible] strength [illegible] preserve, [illegible] of [illegible] lately, [illegible] to move [illegible] a just [illegible] by [illegible] Sofia [illegible] by [illegible] Greece [illegible] Europe [illegible] for [illegible], which [illegible] owing to [illegible] at larger [illegible] of [illegible].

As to the [illegible] between [illegible] States of world [illegible] can no longer [illegible] that [illegible] a [illegible] and [illegible]. A great Bulgaria [illegible] and settlement of [illegible] may be [illegible] there against Roumania [illegible] that her former allies [illegible] will therefore, to assist [illegible] to Roumania's interests [illegible] to that of Greece and Servia that these three States [illegible] cross closer together [illegible] even cement their friendship [illegible] a defensive [illegible] all [illegible], to which Bulgaria will [illegible] a wide [illegible] party. However [illegible] I think that Roumania [illegible] [illegible] security [illegible] of the [illegible] parties [illegible] their [illegible] Sofia and [illegible] sequel [illegible] it may well [illegible] be [illegible] for [illegible] partial [illegible] influence [illegible] Court [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with Servia [illegible] Greece [illegible] also [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Consul-General Lamb has reported the delivery of Gumuldjina and Xanthi to the latter. Dedeagatch appears to be still in the hands of the Greeks, and it is the place in which they are at least unanimous enough owing to the danger of their being brought into conflict with the advancing Turks. Indeed, I gathered in conversation with M. Venizelos on the 2nd instant that he would prefer to be relieved of the charge of Dedeagatch by an international force if the Bulgarians are not ready to take possession by the 28th.

I understand that the stories emanating from Constantinople and Sofia of an armistice existing between Greeks and Turks for the occupation by the latter of any part of Western Thrace are *mendacious* and nature and only because they are positively denied by M. Coromilas, M. Venizelos, and the King, but because the progress of the negotiations with Turkey for the restoration of diplomatic relations has not been such as to induce the Greek Government to take exceptionally accommodating. I have myself impressed both Ministers and upon the King the danger that the Treaties of London and Bucharest were construed within the comity of Greece and Bulgaria and the Bulgars, the question of the ownership of Karaburun might be reviewed. I did not say yesterday that any new Bulgarian treaty was to the Egean, and that the personal opinion of the Greek Minister was that Dedeagatch, provided she retained possession of the railway. The King replied that the Turks returned Adrianople in any way as a result of what I said that although he was not disposed to suppose that it was a commercial port that the Powers had in view for Bulgaria.

The Commissioner of Greek Crete is Mr. Rendel, a popular official. The Cretan Moslems are making representations to the Greek Government. Their newspapers state that their number is [illegible] 300,000. M. Venizelos has told me that for some time past Greek deputies have been elected by Cretan Moslems, but that the Greek Government has always refused to recognise them. Of the two deputies, Nuri Bey, who was elected at the struggle at Hellenised Venizelist, is now in Crete, and is said to be the most influential Moslem there. He is to visit Athens shortly. The case of Mr. Merlin, for instance, whose land has been expropriated without payment, is exceptional, and efforts are being made to settle it. Those Moslems who left Crete at the time of the Balkan War and have not returned are mostly Beys and Effendis, who have taken their property with them. The Cretan Moslems are not allowed to possess fire-arms, and the Greek Government has refused to allow them to be brought to Crete. The Commissioner of Crete is gradually converting the Gendarmerie, which is at present under the command of the Governor-General, into a police force.

I have &c.
F. ELLIOT

40248 No. 8

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 1.*)

No. 197.)
Sir,

Athens, August 29, 1913.

I HAVE had M. Coromilas to read and report to me the text of No. 158 of the Blue Book, and he has since come to my hotel to discuss the general negotiations for peace with Turkey, and in particular the question of the passage of the Straits by the Turkish Delegation. The Greek Government have decided to refuse the request of the Turkish Delegation to send the Imperial yacht with troops from Dedeagatch to Smyrna, and I understand that under the circumstances the Greek Government will probably withdraw their troops from Dedeagatch by sea, and will leave the Turks to return to Smyrna by land. The case of Merlin, for instance, whose land has been expropriated without payment, is exceptional, and efforts are being made to settle it. Those Moslems who left Crete at the time of the Balkan War and have not returned are mostly Beys and Effendis, who have taken their property with them. The Cretan Moslems are not allowed to possess fire-arms, and the Greek Government has refused to allow them to be brought to Crete. The Commissioner of Crete is gradually converting the Gendarmerie, which is at present under the command of the Governor-General, into a police force.

I have &c.
F. ELLIOT

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understanding between Greece and Turkey against Bulgaria, but he has always stopped him, saying that all they had to think of for the present was to compose their own differences.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT

[40249] No. 9.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 200.)
Sir,

Athens, August 26, 1913.

KING CONSTANTINE spoke to me yesterday about the delimitation of the Albanian frontier, remarking that Koritza would not be able to exist if it were separated from Greece. I said I feared that was a foregone conclusion owing to the insistence of Austria. Argyrocastro, His Majesty admitted, was mainly Albanian but Koritza was for racial nationality, sentiment, and commercial interest.

Speaking on the same subject to me previously, M. Coromilas said he was glad the Commissioner was going to the spot, as he felt sure they would report that even the preordained conclusion could not be maintained in the face of the evidence they collected. If it were however, he was sure the population would not submit without a struggle. He was reproached by the Albanian Minister with having the protection of northern Epirus. He could honestly say that this was not being done by the Government, while he could retort that great quantities of arms were being imported, he was not sure from where, into Albania by Valona. The commander of the troops had reported that the Albanian bands were becoming threatening, and that if things became worse he would be obliged to pursue them beyond the frontier in order to break them up.

This danger probably explains the circumstance reported by His Majesty's Consul at Corfu in his despatch dated the 16th instant, that over 9,000 Greek troops had passed lately and had landed at Santi Quaranta, and that large quantities of munitions of war and food were daily despatched from Corfu to that port.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT

[40252] No. 10

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—Received September 1.

No. 203.)
Sir,

Athens, August 26, 1913.

KING CONSTANTINE told me yesterday that the armistice had been arranged just in time to save the Bulgarian army from destruction. He admitted that as we left wing had been driven back but "the last three days' fighting had been very severe." The lost ground, including heavy losses upon the Bulgarians whose retreat he said on another few days would cut off. He said the Bulgarian statement that there were only 50,000 men opposed to him was absurd, as he could prove it to be so from the number of different regiments and ranges found on the prisoners and the load, and from the number of guns captured, 145.

His Majesty said that the war was a savage one, little quarter being given on either side. To the Greeks the Bulgarians was the hereditary enemy the Turkish dominion being only an interlude though it lasted 500 years. The feeling being reciprocal, an attempt at "revanche" was certain, for while Greece must be prepared. It might come even in a couple of years.

M. Coromilas has told me that at Bucharest General Fitchef the Bulgarian chief of the staff openly told the Greeks that they could claim what they liked the Bulgarians were in no condition to stop them, and that whether they took much or little it would make no difference to the Bulgarian determination to try to get it back again.

His Excellency also told me that the allies had proposed to the Bulgarian plenipotentiaries not to insist on demobilisation, so as to leave them free to deal with the Turks, but that the Bulgarians had preferred that it should be stipulated

The Greek casualties during the war with Bulgaria are stated to have amounted to 35,000 men, including 5,000 officers killed, 7,000 wounded or 10 per cent of the total number.

I have &c.
F. ELLIOT

[40209] No. 11

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 313.)
Sir, *Sofia, August 29, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that in accordance to your instructions I duly communicated to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the instructions which you had sent to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Sophia in regard to the Turkish complaints as expressed to the latter and to the world, and instructions in the same sense to the German representative. He said that he had also received complaints from the Turkish Government with regard to massacres of Mussulmans. These, on reaching the Austrian frontier, were to be published in Austria, and he had asked Herr von Tschirschky to furnish him with the reports received at Sophia with reference to the matter. These had not yet been received, but he thought that, as reported, they would have no exceptional importance, and he hoped from what he said that the representations which he had caused to be made at Sophia were very strongly worded, and had for their object the remark that, in view of what was being taken in Western Thrace, the Bulgarian Government could not count upon any assistance from Germany to get them out of their difficulties.

Herr von Tschirschky has been endeavouring to persuade the Bulgarian Government to negotiate directly with the Turks, and I presume that it was with reference to the fact that those overtures had failed that the German Minister at Sophia had reported to Herr von Tschirschky the statement of the Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs to the effect that his Government had been taken unawares with Turkey as they thought they had lost the excellent diplomatic position which, by having created the Treaty of London, they had at present in Europe.

You will have noted, however from my telegram No. 18, that when I informed you of the above statement, I took it from the German Minister at Sophia that the Bulgarian Government were not going to give effect to the advice which they had asked for, and that they were not prepared to do anything with regard to Thrace which was too strongly opposed to the Ottoman Government to enable them to enter into negotiations with the Ottoman Government at present, and that they disposed to offer for a settlement of the Adrianople question on Turkey's favour.

Herr von Tschirschky's system of opposition—and I have reports which probably that the Grand Vizier acted on—was to make false statements as to the Powers with regard to the attitude of Kavalla and Dedeagatch. I agree with him that such statements were almost certain to be believed, but that Bulgarians should make statements so easily exposed as to be found out by Turks must make them look on the face of Christendom. Herr von Tschirschky said that he gathered from reports which he had received that the Austrian Consuls were bitterly opposed to the Bulgarian occupation and considered it very provocative that at Kirjali, for instance, Bulgarian soldiers should be quartered in Turkish houses, and should trample upon by the inhabitants, and that the Bulgarians were behaving like a conquering race. The Bulgarian Government, also, were only too anxious to make out a case against the Turks, has probably accepted these statements of the Consuls without enquiring into them too narrowly and attached too much importance to them. This was, to his mind, a very possible explanation of the whole matter.

In saying that it may yet be the truth must soon come out, he said that it was not necessary to get the information of the Consuls, owing to the continued retreat of the Bulgarians, but that the military attachés of the Powers had remained in Sophia, and he considered it certainly the duty of the Consul, rather a military attaché or a naval consul or any other officer, to go into these disturbed districts. Personally he believed in the categorical assurances of the Grand Vizier, and he felt sure that the origin of the Bulgarian counter-statements was as he had stated.

I have, &c.
W. E. GOSCHEN

[39702] No. 12

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. O'Reilly.

(No. 180.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, September 1, 1913.*

Mr. LAMB'S telegram No. 87 of 28th August. Greek merchants imprisoned at Salonica.

Inform Bulgarian Government, and say that, in the circumstances, I do not propose to take any action at Athens.

Repeated to Athens, No. 120, and Salonica.

[40503] No. 13.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 449.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 1, 1913.*

M. KAPLANIAN, Minister has requested that I would instruct your support of His Majesty's Government, if necessary, in the negotiations of his government with regard to the Bulgarian claims to certain fortresses and defensible frontier and railway communication with Dedeagatch.

You should use your good offices when your colleagues are similarly instructed and if the occasion arises for doing so with the prospect of good results.

Repeated to Sofia, No. 181.)

[40524] No. 14

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Goschen.**

No. 320.
Secret. *Foreign Office, September 1, 1913.*

CONSTANTINOPLE, British ambassador at Rome reports that Count Berchtold is now ready to proceed to Albania for the purpose of his duties. Please ascertain what degree of power to which we are entitled may be expected to accept Secretary-General, Commissioner, so that instructions may be given to Sir Lamb.

[39417] No. 15

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. O'Beirne.

(No. 318.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 1, 1913.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires called to-day on the 29th August and informed Sir L. Mallet that the Grand Vizier had given satisfactory assurances as regards the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from Thrace. Marine sequestration. Sir G. Buchanan telegram No. 305. He said that the Porte had no particular desire to see the Russian Ambassador go, but that the Porte thought that he was not repeating the news of aggression.

Sir L. Mallet replied that he had requested the Turkish Ambassador to obtain such assurance from the Grand Vizier two days previously, and that he had again brought it to his notice to-day.

M. Etter then said that the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs had drawn the attention of the Powers to the importance of forcing the Turks out of Adrianople, and had instructed the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs to draw up the terms of a representation which might be made to the Porte that day, and to act with a financial boycott.

M. Pierino had consented to undertake this task.

Sir L. Mallet said that no attempt had not been made and that all the Powers agreed that would also agree to financial pressure.

M. Etter also read a telegram from M. le Giers giving the gist of an interview which he had had with the Grand Vizier that day. His Excellency had pleaded the great difficulty of ordering the evacuation of Adrianople, and had said that the army would not obey.

* Also to Sir F. Cartwright (No. 257), Mr. O'Beirne (No. 642), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 253).

M. de Giers had admitted the difficulty, but said it was not insuperable, and that if the Powers continued to make strong representations the Porte would give way, though perhaps not unless the Powers threatened force.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[38614] No. 16.

The Earl of Onslow to Mr. C. Lubbock.

Dear Lubbock, *Foreign Office, September 1, 1913.*

SIR EDWARD GREY desires me to send you, for your confidential information, a copy of a memorandum written by the commercial attaché to the embassy at Constantinople after a long talk with the local manager of the Quay Company, regarding the proposed purchase by them of the Top Hane lands.*

I enclose at the same time a copy of a letter from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs to Sir F. Bertie,† stating that the French Government will consider attentively any proposal that the Quays Company should secure a strip of land along the sea-front at Top Hane, and I will not withhold from your company their help in facilitating its success.

M. Pichon thinks it better, however, in the present political situation to defer presenting the Ottoman Government proposals which would ultimately involve the expulsion of the Turkish Treasury officials.

Sir F. Bertie would be glad to receive, at your earliest convenience, a reply to this letter.

I am, &c.
ONSLOW

40130 No. 17.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 1, 1913.*

THE Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are aware from copies of telegraphic correspondence which His Majesty's representatives at the capitals of the other Great Powers, which have already been forwarded to you, that two proposals have been made to His Majesty's Government with a view to carry out the recommendations contained in reports from Lieutenants Sir E. Chetwode regarding the extension of the jurisdiction of the Commission of Administration of the Provinces of the financial experts to assist that body, if found to be necessary, to obtain a general assent.

I am directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to inform you that, in the circumstances, it was decided not to press these proposals at the present time, the acceptance of which it was thought likely to effect would be that, in view of the objection raised by some of the Powers to any extension of the International Commission of Control, it would be necessary to consult them before action was taken.

I am to transmit to you herewith a copy of a telegram which Sir E. Grey has addressed to His Majesty's representatives referred to above,‡ and I am to ask that Sir C. Burney may be informed of the action taken and of the circumstances which have since arisen.

I am, &c.
EYRE A. CROWE

40493 No. 18.

Admiralty to Foreign Office. (Received September 2.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August 30, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of

* Part XI, Enclosure in No. 4. † Part XI, Enclosure in No. 362.
‡ Part XI, No. 503.

letter, dated the 19th instant, which has been received from Vice-Admiral Sir Cecil Burney, K.C.B., representing the urgent need for the establishment of some stable form of government for Albania.

I am, &c.
O. MURRAY

Enclosure in No. 18.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Scutari, August 19, 1913.*

I HAVE previously represented the necessity of establishing some stable form of government for Albania, more especially for the north, as soon as possible, and I again beg to call their Lordships' attention to the necessity that His Majesty's Government should realize that this matter is most urgent.

2. The people in the districts round Scutari are getting more and more restless, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to restrain them from action. Yesterday I received petitions from twenty-seven villages in the south and south-west of Scutari, the inhabitants of which are almost entirely Mussulmans, asking amongst other things, that the country should be taken under the protection of England. Some 5,000 to 6,000 of these people were collected in Scutari and demonstrated in front of my residence. I saw the representatives and explained that I was unable to accede to their requests, but in their own interests of keeping order I urged and advised them to wait for their Government a little longer. I did not mention the destruction of the town, which would be a last resort, but I am certain that the Mussulman population would be glad to get out of the question and would look upon Mussulman population as having lost the sympathy of the Powers.

The representatives from south-west Albania have been to persuade the people to follow the above-mentioned course.

From what I can make of these people, I am convinced that if some Government could be established to ensure them a good form of government it would receive with help of the Mussulmans in Scutari, a general disarmament of Christians would ensue. I am sure of the truth of this statement, for the Mussulmans are really [illegible] are perfectly hanging for some government which will protect them equally with Christians, their own way of government which will treat them equally with Christians.

3. I have already reported to their Lordships how very insecure the position of the people for proper government has been, and it is only a few days ago that I am constantly receiving from all parts of Albania and Mussulmans throughout the whole of Northern Albania.

I beg again to point out that the guarantee signed by the Powers assuring Albania a stable government cannot be carried out without the necessity of some better form of administration. Yesterday was the last day of the occupation of Scutari for over three months and as soon as anything has been done in the way of the very much needed police assistance, most likely under proper government for the whole of the districts of Albania, which have all been devastated by war, that the people were ill would be taken from the present chaotic state of their government, which they have been given advice which is very good consolation and become so important of late.

Acting under the advice of the [illegible] some cases from all parts of Albania amongst the chiefs for the purpose of raising armed forces against Greece, and for the latter I have helped them financially.

5. We have been particularly fortunate in putting a stop to vendetta as far as murders, which were formerly of frequent occurrence, have been reduced to a minimum, but I submit that it is asking too much of these people of the villages when their extremely wretched condition is considered and the rains and winter are approaching, to expect them to remain much longer in expectation of succour.

6. From a careful study of the behaviour of the representatives of the various nations here and their supporters, I feel that there is just reason for entertaining grave doubts as to whether certain of the Powers desire that the people of Albania should remain quiet.

It is my firm belief that there are much in Scutari—Europeans, but not Albanians—who are striving to raise disorder in the town and outside.

7. I therefore feel that it is my duty to represent as strongly as I can the urgent necessity for the Commission reorganising the government of Albania to commence

[illegible] further delay [illegible] provisional government may be established in Northern Albania at the earliest possible moment.

I have, &c.
LCIL BURNEY,
President of the International Commission.

[40569] No. 19.

Mr O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 362.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, September 2, 1913.*

IN pursuance of decision reported in my telegram No. 358 of 30th August Bulgarian Government authorised M. Natchevitch to propose to Porte despatch of Bulgarian delegates to Constantinople, and simultaneous withdrawal of Turkish troops east of Maritza. They yesterday received a favourable reply as to delegates, but nothing was said as to troops. Delegates convened to-day, except M. Kalchef, who will be replaced by M. Natchevitch.

Bulgarian *sine qua non* is right bank of Maritza, involving their independent railway control as far as Dedeagatch. Between Adrianople and Black Sea they would fix frontier of Treaty of San Stefano.

Bulgarian Government hopes that agreement on above basis may be followed by commercial arrangement and by general good understanding with Turkey.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[40536] No. 20.

Mr Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 200.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 2, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 120 of 13th August. Free access to Durazzo and Djakova markets.

Joint representations made to-day.

[40393] No. 21.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 2, 1913.*

GREEK Government having suggested that Powers should communicate to them result of Ambassadors' decision as regards southern frontier of Albania, you are authorised to inform your colleagues in making such a communication as soon as they receive similar instructions.

Extract of resolution now in the form of Ambassadors' meeting of 8th August, with amendment to article 6, having been accepted by Powers at meeting of 11th August (see Part I. Section 6).

[37350] No. 22.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr Marling.

(No. 276.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 2, 1913.*

I HAVE received your despatches No. 693 of the 29th July and No. 704 of the 31st July, forwarding copies of letters from the President of the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt relative to the demands which the Albanian Provisional Government have made on the agents of the Debt in Albania.

The question is one which must be dealt with by the International Commission of Control as soon as it has entered on its duties, and in the meanwhile I can only suggest that the Administration of the Debt should be recommended to instruct their agents in Albania to disregard, so far as may be possible, the illegal demands of the

Provisional Government which, in cases where it is impossible to pay under protest, keeping an account of the sums thus withheld for eventual adjustment by the Commission when it takes over the administration of the country.

As you are aware, I addressed a circular telegram to His Majesty's representatives at the capitals of the six Great Powers, instructing them to impress on the Governments to which they are respectively accredited the importance of not delaying the despatch of their commissioners to Scutari.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[38941] No. 23.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Elliot.

HIS Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the French Chargé d'Affaires, and, with reference to the note of the 21st August relative to the demands which the Albanian Provisional Government have made on the agents of the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt in Albania, has the honour to state that in his opinion the question should be dealt with by the International Commission of Control as soon as it has entered on its duties, and that in the meantime the Administration of the Debt should be recommended to instruct their agents in Albania to disregard, as far as may be possible, the illegal demands of the Provisional Government, and to pay what is unavoidable "under protest," keeping an account of the sums thus withheld for eventual adjustment by the Commission when it takes over the administration of the country.

Instructions in the above sense have been sent to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

Sir E. Grey would be glad to have the information that on the 30th August he addressed a circular telegram to His Majesty's representatives at the capitals of the six great Powers, instructing them to impress on the Governments to which they are respectively accredited the importance of avoiding delay in the despatch of their commissioners to Scutari.

Foreign Office, September 2, 1913.

[40628] No. 24.

Lieut.-Colonel Morgan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, September 3, 1913.*

TURKish Military occupied North 31st August.
(Sent to Constantinople.)

[40723] No. 25.

Mr O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 324.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, September 3, 1913.*

I ASKED Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs what measures were being taken in connection with Pan-Bulgarian negotiations. He replied that Russian Ambassador at Constantinople had been instructed to use his influence on behalf of Bulgaria, but he had accepted that Turkey would show herself very difficult. Russian Government do not seem disposed to give Bulgaria any energetic support.

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* Not to Herr von Kühlmann, Imperial Chancellor.

[40718] No. 26.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 163.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 3, 1913.*

GREEK Government telegraphed yesterday to their representatives to ask Powers to take some steps with regard to Dedeagatch. Greeks have prolonged the occupation in deference to Powers, and if Turks demand surrender officer commanding will reply that his orders are to hand over to the Bulgarians, but if the Turks advance in force Greeks will retire under protest.

Owing to Turkish occupation of Xanthi publication of decree of demobilisation has been postponed.

(Sent to Constantinople and Sofia.)

[40715] No. 27.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 3, 1913.*

THE Greek Government protest against alleged intention to send 100 Italian [illegible] with [illegible] Albanian Delimitation Commission. The Greek army can provide necessary escort and the [illegible] is particularly unfortunate.

[40719] No. 28.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 241. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 3, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 199 of 21st August: Servian-Montenegrin frontier.

I am informed that negotiations [illegible] deadlock owing to [illegible] Montenegrin [illegible] of Ipek [illegible] Prizren district.

[illegible] will be resumed [illegible].

[illegible] Servian [illegible] frontier was [illegible] Greece [illegible] Servian [illegible] of Montenegro should still desire [illegible].

(Sent to [illegible].)

[40844] No. 29.

Sir Edward Grey to Count de Salis.

(No. [illegible].)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 3, 1913.*

If, as we are informed, Djakova is ceded by Servia to Montenegro, you should, when [illegible] are sufficiently [illegible], request the Montenegrin Government to [illegible] access to Mussulmans to [illegible] markets in [illegible] town.

[40571] No. 30.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 258.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, September 3, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 13[illegible] of 2nd September.

His Majesty's Government will readily consider any Austrian suggestion as to [illegible] the commission must clearly take over Administration from admirals, [illegible] seems unavoidable, if only for this reason.

(Repeated to Paris, No. 625; Berlin, No. 325; St. Petersburgh, No. 645; and Rome, No. 255.)

[40822] No. 31.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 324.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, September 3, 1913.*

GREEK Government have asked that Greek representative may accompany Commission for delimitation of southern frontier of Albania to supply information.

Inform Government to which you are accredited, and ask their view, reminding them that a similar request from Servian Government respecting northern frontier was not entertained.

(Repeated to Athens, No. 129.)

[40503] No. 32.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. O'Beirne.

(No. 123.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 3, 1913.*

THE Bulgarian Minister [illegible] Sir L. Mallet on the [illegible] August [illegible] that his Government had decided to negotiate directly with Turkey at once, and had appointed delegates for the purpose. When Bulgaria wanted, M. Madjaroff said, was defensible frontier [illegible] Dedeagatch. [illegible] asked that His Majesty's Government would support the Bulgarian Government in their negotiations. He added that [illegible] Bulgarian Government [illegible] support by force, but, if occasion arose, by diplomatic means.

Sir L. Mallet replied that he felt sure [illegible] should agree.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[40749] No. 33.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 145.)
Sir, *Belgrade, August 29, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that [illegible] colleagues, having received the necessary instructions from their Governments, presented [illegible] to the Servian Prime Minister on the evening of the 17th instant [illegible] subject of the protection of [illegible] in the territories ceded to Servia, [illegible] the evacuation by the Servian Government of all [illegible] Albania [illegible] of their troops. I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the notes *verbales* which [illegible] were drawn up [illegible] representations M. Pashitch stated [illegible] protection of [illegible] effectively provided for under the Servian Constitution [illegible] guarantees contained in the Treaty of Berlin.

In regard to the second representation the Austrian and Russian Ministers having decided to communicate a [illegible] explanatory of the engagement of the Powers relative to the international railway and commercial access to the Adriatic, I thought it best to [illegible] communication of it to the Prime Minister, adding, however, that I understood you to have already placed the Servian Chargé d'Affaires [illegible] in possession of this document. In [illegible] me, M. Pashitch told me he had not yet seen this memorandum.

The Prime Minister proceeded to say that it was the hostile attitude of the [illegible] a Moslem Albanian tribes [illegible] which had hitherto rendered it necessary to retain Servian troops [illegible] He had now [illegible] the headquarters of the army at [illegible] and asked for a report as to the exact [illegible] M. Pashitch then stated that, until the northern and eastern frontier of Albania [illegible] been finally demarcated by the International Commission, it was somewhat difficult to specify the precise points beyond which Servian troops should be withdrawn. [illegible] asked

* Also to Earl Granville (No. 324), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 259), Mr. O'Beirne (No. 646), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 256).

his Excellency asked that the withdrawal of the Servian troops at Oroshi and the Mirdites, which he had ordered, might not be delayed, and whether the retention of a Servian frontier guard would be agreeable to Mr. Pashitch, who assured me that not only were the Mirdites well disposed towards Servia, but would perhaps even welcome a Servian protectorate. I venture to think that this statement of the Prime Minister is somewhat significant as showing (1) his belief on the part of the Servian Government that the new Albania can ever become viable, and (2) a desire so to prepare the ground by means of propaganda amongst an Albanian tribe that full advantage may be taken of the foothold thus secured when a suitable opportunity arrives.

The French Minister with whom I have talked since our representations to M. Pashitch were made, fully shares these views, though he does not anticipate that Servia will attempt to pursue any active policy over the immediate future. She will, in his opinion, bide her time. The Mirdites, said M. Descos, who has travelled extensively in those districts, constitute an Albanian vanguard, and will be easily overcome by Slav hordes. He also gathers the impression that one of the reasons why the Servians are not pressing for access to Albania is that they hope to attain the fruit without present share, and of less detriment of good relations with the Mirdites, should the latter at a favourable future time for Servia, when the International Commission proves abortive.

The Austrian Minister, who is encouraging the revival of Servian propaganda among the Mirdites, is not to be trusted, as Count Berchtold will prove amenable to counter influences. He has apparently made light of the substance of his conversation with M. Pashitch, whom he only particularly advised to be moderate.

I gather from my colleagues that M. Pashitch, in addition to his representations to Austria, spoke strongly to the Powers of the international railway and commercial access to the Adriatic. It seems certain that Servia is now in possession of free access to the Ægean through Dedeagatch and Salonica, in virtue of the arrangements recently made with Greece and Turkey. But, looking to the past, it is evident that Servia will be dependent on the maintenance of good relations with Greece. It seems very unlikely that so far-seeing a statesman as M. Pashitch is really indifferent to the prospects of an alternative route, especially when they realise a character more favourable to Servian aspirations, as his steadfast demeanour would imply.

I have, &c.
PAYELL CRACKANTHORPE.

Enclosure in No. 13.

Note verbale communicated to M. Pashitch.

(1)

Il sera pris des dispositions pour assurer la protection effective des populations catholiques, ainsi que des missions et des établissements religieux dans les territoires cédés à la Serbie.

Aucune atteinte ne sera portée aux droits et aux garanties reconnus par les articles 92 et 93 du Traité de Berlin (protection des Israélites) et du Traité de Berlin restent en vigueur.

Il sera expressément entendu que les garanties stipulées au profit des Albanais au bénéfice de la langue albanaise pour l'enseignement scolaire et pour la publication de livres et de périodiques.

Valona, le 17 août, 1913.

(2)

Il est absolument nécessaire que le Gouvernement Royal serbe évacue sans délai tous les territoires en Albanie occupées par leurs troupes et qu'il respecte la frontière du nord-est et nord-est de l'Albanie fixée par les Puissances et communiquée au Gouvernement Royal serbe le 17 avril dernier.

A cette occasion il est également convenu d'inviter le Gouvernement Royal serbe à exécuter l'engagement des Puissances relatif au retrait des troupes serbes qui occupent encore une partie du territoire albanais situé au nord-est d'une ligne partant du point 1 de la frontière albano-serbe, passant par Ipek et aboutissant à la mer Adriatique, à la hauteur de Durazzo.

Belgrade, le 17 août, 1913.

[40750] No. 14

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 146.)
Sir, *Belgrade, August 19, 1913.*

I ASKED M. Pashitch when I saw him on the 17th instant whether I might write to my colleagues' reports with regard to his assurance that the Servian troops had been ordered to two points: (1) a position on the Ipek-Durazzo line across the Albanian frontier, and (2) the town of Prizrend, and if he would kindly let me have a copy of his written reply.

He protested that he had no objection to my doing so, but he would prefer that I should not write anything, as the Servian Government were still engaged in negotiations with Austria-Hungary, which, if successfully concluded, might lead to the withdrawal of the Servian troops from Albania.

M. Pashitch spoke hopefully of the future prospects of peace, which he based on the equilibrium of power. He expressed the opinion that the Balkan States would become more reconciled to the new order of things. He informed me that apart from the two arrangements above mentioned, nothing had been definitely settled with Austria-Hungary, who would, however, receive all commercial support to the maintenance of peace.

I have, &c.
PAYELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[40179] No. 15

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 148. Confidential.)
Sir, *Belgrade, August 20, 1913.*

THE entry into Belgrade yesterday of the Servian Crown Prince at the head of the victorious division was the occasion for a great rejoicing. The city was gaily decorated with flags, festoons, and triumphal arches, and though the Servian display was of the progressive type so characteristic of the Servians, there were unmistakable signs of the general relief that a new page in the history of this country had been turned. In the course of the morning a statue of King Peter, in the presence of King Peter and other members of the Royal family. To this ceremony the Corps Diplomatique was invited.

It was observed that amongst the crowd which witnessed the military procession was a considerable contingent of South Slavs from across the Austro-Hungarian frontier. In this connection it is possible that some new expedients may be in contemplation for the creation of a Serbo-Bulgarian State. Servia, having secured the object of her ambitions in the direction of the Ægean, will be inevitably drawn towards Sofia, and if the two countries, instead of a greater Servia, will create a powerful magnet. I am confidentially informed that negotiations are on foot for the conclusion of a concordat between the Orthodox Church in Servia and the Roman Catholic Church in the neighbouring South Slav provinces of the monarchy, the general scheme now stated comprising abolition of all references in the calendar and character and the settlement of the religious question in the case of children of mixed marriages.

Par passu with this, one notices both in the press and in the course of conversation with Servians a deep mistrust of Russia, and a growing reluctance, fostered of late by recent successes, to accept as inevitable Russian patronage. In a recent press article which appeared in the progressive organ the "Tribuna" on which I call with the Albanian question, Russia was accused of playing a double game at Belgrade and of harbouring beneath the appearance of a protector the design of ultimately eating her own child. Russia, it was then stated, would in fact prove a far more

dangerous neighbour than even Bulgaria. The tone, rather than the drift, of this article is interesting.

It seems, however, likely that the present Government, whose hands are somewhat tied in regard to Russia, will endeavour to repress, as it has already had to do (see my despatch No. 113 of the 15th August), any too demonstrative desire on the part of the press for emancipation from Russian tutelage, and for this policy M. Pashitch would be aided by the fact that the country generally is exhausted and in need of recuperation. Should, however, a new war be given a new direction into Servian policy, the continuance of which, according to every indication, will be the maintenance of friendly relations with Greece and the closest possible touch with Roumania. It is generally believed here that M. Pasitch sought to enter into an arrangement with Roumania whereby Servia would obtain Roumanian support against Bulgaria, but it is doubtful whether such a war, if it came, would be as well-received as he hoped, for Roumanian affairs should now be supposed to conclude any agreement with Servia. But that as it may it is accordingly evident that Servia looks to close co-operation with Roumania as giving her the best security for the retention of Monastir, and I fatally adverting to the necessary measure to consolidate with what she already acquired territories.

I am, &c.

DAVID RAGAVALIORPE.

P.S. Since writing the above I have been informed by the Austrian Charge d'Affaires that the Austrian Minister asked a short time ago at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs whether there was any truth in reports which he understood it was being given out between the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches. The Secretary-General said that there was unfortunately much truth in the allegation. Mr. Vesnitch suggested that M. Stefanovitch should subsequently make a contrary assertion in a semi-official company.

D. C.

[40771] No. 36.

Mr. Rose Battiscombe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.) *Durazzo, September 3, 1913.*

MY Lord, Acting Naval Transport Service Medical Officer.

I have the honour to report that Mr. Hoggan's train is seeking a suitable place for Servia for his early unobstructed use.

(Repeated to Cettinje.)

40867 No. 37.

Lord Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 4.)

No. 155.
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, September 4, 1913.*

Your telegram No. 324 of 3rd September.

I saw the German Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning just after the Greek Charge d'Affaires had made similar representations. The Minister for Foreign Affairs had told him that he had a personal objection in principle to Greek representative occupying Durazzo, but that as the right had been conceded to the Powers he did not think that they could find fault with Greek view of similar request of, he believed, not unreasonable nature. After I had carried out paraphrase of your telegram to his Excellency, he sent to the Greek Charge d'Affaires to tell him that it was the Servians who had been refused.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs also said that the Greek Charge d'Affaires had also protested against the reported assertion of the Italian Government to send 500 Italian soldiers to protect the Commission, and had offered to ascertain whether the Greek authorities would afford all protection. The Minister for Foreign Affairs had replied that he would not move in the matter but it appeared to him that the Commission required protection, and that it was difficult to accept it from Greece as that would seem to recognise Greek occupation.

[40871] No. 38.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, September 3, 1913.*

MONTELY'S telegram No. 362 of 2nd September.

Bulgarian delegates arrived yesterday. They are General Savof, M. Tsheloff and M. Natchevitch. They called on embassies this afternoon.

[40396] No. 50.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 167.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 4, 1913.*

COUNT TARNOWSKI called on the 2nd instant to inform me that his Government had instructed their Ambassador at Constantinople to suggest to the Turkish Government that the naval forces of the Powers should co-operate with the Turkish troops in forcing the Turkish troops in Western Thrace, especially at Kesan, the necessary transit of the Powers should be given. The Turkish troops in Western Thrace, especially at Kesan, the necessary transit of the Powers should be given. Count Tarnowski said that he was not instructed to ask for an answer to this proposal, but was supposed merely to ascertain the facts.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[40888] No. 40.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 52.)
Sir, *Cettinje, August 27, 1913.*

M. PLAMENATZ, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, spoke to me two days ago on the subject of the frontier between Albania and Montenegro. He was anxious to secure by a friendly arrangement the only unsettled tract of country. He said that if Montenegro would agree to cede to Albania the district of Plava, Albania would be willing to allow Montenegro direct access from Montenegrin territory to Gussinje, without going out by Andrijevitza, they would also be willing to allow Montenegro to retain Gusinje territory. If Montenegro will give effect to this proposal, Albania would, he said, raise no objection should they wish to have a frontier between Plava and their pasturage which were already in Montenegrin territory.

M. Plamenatz went on to suggest that in addition to Montenegro that the new frontier should follow the Drina throughout its whole course. Could this strategical objection be overcome by coming to the Powers the bill of Austria would oppose the Council of Scutari?

In my despatch No. 120 of the 14th August I reported to you that Montenegrin Government had put forward to the Italian Government a proposal respecting the frontier line which I ventured to contrast with the far-reaching claims which appeared to be the subject of a memorandum, subsequently given to me by Vojvovitch. The Montenegrin troops are now engaged in the final operations for the incorporation of Montenegro. Their country is barren and rocky, and its inhabitants are turbulent and are unable to pay any taxes to it. Hence they are a source of trouble and expense to the Montenegrin Government, who, with a European treaty in hand, would

[illegible] their present application. But if, as in the case of [illegible] representations, this proposal [illegible] prove to be an attempt to gain an increase of Albanian territory [illegible] will only increase the [illegible] Frontier Delimitation Commission [illegible]

The proposal that the hill of Tarabosh should be ceded to [illegible] Powers would scarcely appear to [illegible] of the Montenegrin [illegible]. The importance of [illegible] is purely strategic. [illegible]

[illegible]

I have, &c.

[illegible] SAHIS.

[40899] **No. 41**

[illegible]

Sir, [illegible] 1913.

[illegible]

I am, &c.

[illegible] LLEWELLYN SMITH

[41003] **No. 42**

Note communicated by Count Mensdorff, September [illegible], 1913.

[illegible] consulat [illegible] Austro-Hongrie à Scutari [illegible], le 30 [illegible] passé, des troupes serbes se trouvaient toujours [illegible] Mirdita.

[illegible] Belgrade [illegible] l'évacuation [illegible] pas [illegible] Comte Berchtold croit utile que [illegible] une fois [illegible] par leurs représentants à Belgrade [illegible] la plus [illegible] ses troupes derrière la frontière [illegible] nord-est ainsi qu'elle a été fixée à Londres.

Ambassade d'Autriche-Hongrie, Londres,
[illegible] septembre, 1913.

[40991] **No. 43**

Mr. [illegible] to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September [illegible].)

(No. [illegible].)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September [illegible], 1913.*

[illegible]

[40996] **No. 44**

[illegible] to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September [illegible].)

(No. [illegible].)
(Telegraphic.) [illegible]

[illegible]

[40529] No. 15

Sir Edward Grey to Sir R. Rodd.

(No. 219.)
Sir *Foreign Office, September 5, 1913*

PRINCE BIBESCO told Sir L. Mallet on the 2nd August that the Turkish Minister of Commerce had enquired of M. Nachowitz whether the Bulgarian Government would accept the annexation of Dedeagatch, or rather of the frontier between Bulgaria and Turkey. If the reply was favourable he would suggest this course to the Grand Vizier.

The Italian Chargé d'Affaires said that Italy would not be unfavourable, but that the Italian Government must have the consent of all the Powers and must be assured that none would demand compensation. Prince Borghese then enquired as to my views.

Sir A. Malet informed him that His Majesty's Government could not welcome any proceedings that offered a real prospect of settlement.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[40025] No. 16.

Foreign Office to War Office.

(Draft.)
Sir *Foreign Office, September 5, 1913*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your secret letter of the 29th August, suggesting that the islands which may be considered necessary for the defence of Salonika should be restored to Malta.

In reply I am to inform the Army Council that every effort should be made to avoid the necessity of the International Commission of Control at Malta being called upon to point out how, after the Commission has ceased to exist, it would be necessary that there should be some force at its disposal, and I am to add that the question of the garrison of Malta during the time it can be occupied by the present Foreign detachments can be considered hereafter.

I am, &c.
EYRE A. CROWE.

[41023] No. 17

Sir F. Elliot to Sir E. Grey. (*Received September 6.*)

(No. 208.)
Sir *Athens, September 1, 1913.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 1 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a despatch from the British Delegate on the International Financial Commission respecting the disposal of the sum of 300,000 fr. lately paid by His Majesty's Government to the Russian Government in favour of the Civil List of Greece, this sum being exempt from the annuity payable by the Greek Government in connection with the Guaranteed Loan of 1898.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

Enclosure in No. 17.

Mr. Beaumont to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 8.)
Sir *International Financial Commission, Athens, August 30, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 22nd instant respecting the disposal of the sum of 300,000 fr. paid by His Majesty's Government to the Greek Government on behalf of the Russian Government as a personal donation to the late Majesty King George from the annuity payable to the three Governments on account of the Guaranteed Loan of 1898.

I am glad to learn that the French and Russian colleagues I propose that the

declaration to the Greek Government, in the sense of your despatch No. 13, to Sir F. Bertie of the 14th July, should be made at the date on which the International Financial Commission have in their past paid the sum of 300,000 fr., relinquished by the three Governments, to the Ministry of Finance.

In this letter it has always been stated that the payment was personal to King George, and the desired declaration can easily be made by a slight alteration of the wording of the note to the Greek Government, who are fully aware of the personal nature of the donation and of their obligations under the arrangement concluded in 1860.

We assume that for the present year the sum to be returned to the Greek Government should be calculated up to the date of the death of His late Majesty on the 18th March, and that the balance should be remitted to the three Governments in

On this assumption the amount to be refunded to the Greek Government will be 65,000 fr. or 2,600 fr. 6 c. from each of the three Governments, leaving a balance to be remitted to the latter of 235,000 fr., or 78,266 fr. 33 c. to each Government, over and above the 200,000 fr. remitted annually to each of their respective Governments.

I have, &c.
H. D. BEAUMONT.

[41139] No. 48.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 6.*)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Vienna, September 6, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 258 of 3rd September.

The Austro-Hungarian Government observe that the choice of the town (Vienna) as the meeting place of the heads of the Commission would not provide it the visiting Ambassadors as Sarajevo. They add that according to the opinion of the Ambassadors' Conference the task of the Commission is not the exercise but the supervision of the local administration.

Copy by post to-night.

[41145] No. 19

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Vienna, September 6, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 259 of 3rd September.

Austro-Hungarian Government (word illegible) have to consult Italian Government before giving definite decision, but I am in receipt of Greek representative would entail presence of Albanian, as that fulfilment of Greek request would have to be met by international or Greek Government. I may therefore assume, pending definite valuation demanded in point 7 of the resolution of the Ambassadors' Conference of 11th August, and on work of Commission, in acting in no case proceed beyond 30th November.

Copy by post to-night.

[41152] No. 50

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 395.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, September 6, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 646 of 3rd September.

Acting Secretary of State informs me that Russian Government would not themselves be in favour of admission of Greek representative. They recognise, however, that case differs somewhat from that of Servian request, because Monarch has not been recently deposed as Montenegrin and Greek delegate might give valuable information. Russian Government will therefore not object if other Powers wish to accede to Greek request.

Acting Secretary of State thinks Austria and Italy will strongly oppose idea.

[41154] No. 47

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Rome, September 6, 1913.*

SIR F. CARTWRIGHT'S telegram No. 223 of 3rd September.

Austrian Government have asked Italian Government for their views respecting Scutari as meeting place for the Commission of Control, which the former consider not central enough, and have added that they would welcome an exchange of views among Powers as to choice of meeting place advisable.

Secretary-General informs me that Baron Aliotti is replying that he has no views to Austrian point of view.

I told him we were ready to consider Austrian point of view, but presumed that commissioners would have to go to Scutari first to take over control from admirals, even if the seat of administration were to be transferred elsewhere afterwards.

[41155] No. 52.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 148.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 7, 1913.*

Your telegram No. 320 of 1st September to Berlin.

Departure of Italian delegate suspended until question of meeting place settled.

[41156] No. 54

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 149.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 7, 1913.*

ITALIAN Government have received reports of preparations made by Greeks to resist giving effect to decisions of the Powers. They understand that 5,000 Greek regulars have proceeded in plain clothes to the neighbourhood of Argyrocastro, that Epirote bands are organised for resistance, and a sacred legion enrolled which is ready to receive upwards of 2,000 volunteers. Also that six guns have been landed and placed on Sasseno Island.

[41149] No. 51

Mr. Maxwell to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 257.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, September 7, 1913.*

My telegrams Nos. 411 of 15th August and 415 of 21st August.

Local press reports a rising of Moslem population in Koja-Ili district to resist Bulgarian occupation. According to trustworthy private information the Moslem forces are largely composed of volunteers from Eastern Anatolia, and have been secretly forwarded under guise of returning refugees. They are commanded by retired officers, also Moslems, as previously, which has been abused by Young Turks in the past, for instance, at the time of the *coup d'état* of 1913 last, and of the counter-revolution of 13th April, 1909.

[41257] No. 55.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 327.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, September 7, 1913.*

My telegram No. 318 to the effect that unless some form of government is set on foot at once there will be serious trouble in some parts of Albania, probably in the districts round Scutari, at any rate.

* Also to Sir G. Buchanan (No. 651), Sir R. Rodd (No. 259), Sir E. Goschen (No. 325), and Sir F. Cartwright (No. 258).

Objection has been taken to my reference to the International forces at Scutari, and His Majesty's Government are most anxious to meet, as far as they can, the views of the Albanian Government. They agree that the international force should not be employed for any purpose other than that for which it was originally sent, namely, the suppression of disorder. They do not, however, assent to the suggestion that the Powers should withdraw their forces from Albania as soon as order is restored. The object to be attained, as stated in my telegram No. 318 to Sir F. Bertie, is not only to restore order, but to establish a stable government which, in the words of His Majesty's Government's memorandum of 29th July, the Powers are prepared to guarantee against external attack. A large proportion of the international forces will be required for some time to come for the purpose of control and the best method of giving effect to this object should be explained as much as possible and there should be a clear understanding as to when it can be terminated. The international forces are to be withdrawn as soon as they are not to be of use for more than the temporary occupation of Scutari itself.

I am ready to fall in with any policy that commends itself to other Powers, no matter what they propose.

You should communicate substance to Minister for Foreign Affairs.

[41257] No. 56.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 328. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 7, 1913.*

My telegram No. 327 of 7th September.

There seems to be a tendency at Vienna not to realise the risk of serious trouble in Albania, and reluctance to expose to anything that is proposed to prevent it, and I fear things may drift into disorder and confusion before we are aware.

[41303] No. 57

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 330. Confidential.)
Sir, *Pera, September 7, 1913.*

THE readiness of the Italian Government at the present moment to regard with the friendly interest only the fate of Janina and Possia but also by the abstinence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs that His Majesty's Government was ready to join with other Governments in friendly representations would desire to see, for the sake of Turkey as well as of Europe, the Ottoman Empire maintained in the Asiatic portion of its territory. Any matter affecting the Ægean Islands and the departure of Italian troops from them would naturally be of special interest to Greece, but I should not have supposed that Greek and Italian interests in Asia Minor were in any way antagonistic. Nevertheless, the attitude of the Italian Government, which has prompted the present step, and the apparent absence of any desire on the part of the Italian Government to enter into any discussion with the Powers as to the disposal of the Ægean Islands, would seem to indicate that Italy has some special interests in Asia Minor which she does not at present care to disclose. It is in the interests of Turkey that such demonstrations should be made at present, and I am sure that Talaat Bey would be glad to see Italy's interests in Asia Minor satisfied. With the existing state of relations between Italy and Turkey, any direct discussion on this question is impossible, and some sort of tacit collaboration between the Powers is regarded as desirable, as I have already reported. The arrangements taken by Italy towards the close of the Libyan war regarding the restoration of the Islands are to what would seem to form an obstacle to any offer to be repudiated. But I do not consider Italy's present attitude in Asia Minor as in any way inconsistent with the arrangements taken to work with a view to arranging peace. Turkey the apparently spontaneous offer of one of the Great Powers to place the services of some of its officers at the disposal of the Turkish Government.

I should, perhaps, add that I was invited to put forward this suggestion, which I had already communicated to the diplomatic agents of the Italian Government, in order to obtain an answer to the diplomatic agents of the Italian Government.

* Also to Sir E. Goschen (No. 326), and Sir G. Buchanan (No. 652), *mutatis mutandis*.

at both Powers in conversation with my Russian colleague upon one of my personal misgivings on this point, I found that exactly the same remark had occurred to M. Nekludoff.

Russian opposition possibly should not be lost sight of, and the indications to which I have referred with others of a less specific character, have certainly impressed me with the idea that although Italy would be very unwilling to see any territorial changes in the Balkans, she would, unless firmly convinced that some of the Great Powers will oppose them by force, endeavour to look for some form of compromise between Servian occupation and that measure of possession and that measure of control by Turkey which would alone transfer to the Porte in order to preserve an option on future eventualities.

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

41304] No. 58.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir John Tilley.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 250)
Sir, *Posilipo, September 2, 1913.*

ONE or two observations made by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires appear to me to be worth reporting though as a general rule information would have been supplied from Athens. But it sometimes occurs that agents abroad are more correctly informed than the Chiefs at headquarters, and therefore I shall venture to submit this.

M. Politis stated that it was proposed to begin to retire the Bulgarian forces posted to the Turkish frontier, the former having given effect to my telegram No. 32 (32,000 men and several Ivoys). The Turkish and Bulgarian representatives are engaged in discussing the details of the withdrawal, which is expected to occupy about 20 days. The Bulgarians have already retired from Kirk Kilisse, Lule Burgas, and Tchorlu, and the Turks have occupied Adrianople, Kirk Kilisse, and Tchorlu. Their first object is to secure Adrianople thoroughly as a fortress in view of the Conference at Sofia on the 10th instant, which will probably result in the restoration of the Enos-Midia line. The Turkish troops will not be sent to the Gallipoli Peninsula until possession of the forts has been taken over from the Bulgarians.

Reference to the fleet and the forts will be found in my telegram No. 247. The Greek losses during the second war were 25,000, of which 5,000 were killed, 2,000 seriously and the rest slightly wounded. The wounds of the latter are still very numerous in the hospitals, the overcrowding of which exposed by the recent outbreak of cholera, and for the troops were apparently being attended.

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

[41224] No. 59.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 172)
Sir, *St. Petersburgh, September 1, 1913.*

I ASKED M. Neratof yesterday, as I had the honour to state in my telegram No. 241 of the same date, what Russia was arguing in connection with the negotiations between Turkey and Bulgaria. His Excellency replied that instructions had been sent to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople to use his influence with the Porte and that of Bulgaria by speaking "from time to time" in a sense favourable to her wishes. Proceeding to discuss the practical issue of the negotiations, M. Neratof was frank to express his sympathy for Bulgaria's desire to obtain control of the Dedeagatch railway. It was necessary to maintain communications between Constantinople and the Ægean coast. He remarked how difficult the Russian Government would find it to present the Russian case if they were likely to show themselves still hesitating to take very energetic measures to support Bulgaria, the right bank of the Maritza opposite Adrianople and Dedeagatch. He gave no indication that in any case the Russian Government would support Bulgaria more energetically than had been indicated in the instructions to Mr. Hohler.

In general terms the Russian Government are in entire harmony with Russian public opinion, for it is impossible not to be struck by the general

indifference shown here to Bulgaria's interests at the present juncture. During the last few days since it has become plain to everyone that Adrianople is fated to remain in the hands of Turkey, the subject has scarcely been mentioned in the St. Petersburgh press, even by the Nationalist organs. No doubt this indifference may be accounted for to some extent by the general weariness with the Balkan question, but it is also true that Russian opinion seems to have definitely turned away from Bulgaria from the day when that country went to war with her former allies. The slight to the Emperor implied by Bulgaria's refusal to comply with His Majesty's solemn admonitions has not been forgotten nor forgiven by patriotic Russians.

The Macedonian delegates have also met with a chilly reception in this capital. They have been told by the 'Novoe Vremya' and other papers that they are not representative of the Macedonian populations, who probably care less about autonomy than about peace and a stable Government. Doubts are thrown on their assertions that Servian policy was at the extermination of the Bulgarian element in Macedonia, and they are called upon to produce proofs of that statement. M. Neratof observed to me that he had not himself received any of the delegates, but that one of them had seen a subordinate official of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
HUGH O'BEIRNE.

[41266] No. 60.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 151)
Sir, *Belgrade, September 1, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the representations were made to the Servian Government on the 2nd instant with a view to assuring free access to the ports of Dibra and Djakova for the inhabitants of the neighbouring Albanian districts in accordance with the instructions contained in your despatch No. 129 of the 30th ultimo. M. Pashitch having left the previous day for Marienbad, these representations were received by M. Spalaikovitch who has taken charge of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs during the recess. I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the memorandum I left with M. Spalaikovitch, which has been drawn up in conjunction with my colleague. M. Spalaikovitch's reply was to the effect that the Servian Government would place no difficulty in the way of satisfying the economic and commercial wants of the neighbouring Albanian population, provided, as to the representation made by the Great Powers, Servian customs revenue were respected.

On the following morning I had some conversation on this subject with M. Slanovitch, who is at present acting as Secretary-General. He argued that the obvious effect of the frontier line drawn by the ambassadors would be to reduce the relations with the new Albanian frontier wholly against the Servian goods, whether economic existed. Were the duty stations on the Servian proper to be applied on the Albanian frontier the markets of Albania via Djakova would become automatically closed to the neighbouring populations who could not afford to pay huge duties.

I gather from M. Slanovitch's remarks that the Servian Government believe that its interests and aspirations in Albania may be adequately served with the concessions thus offered of holding the neighbouring Albanian districts economically subject to

I have, &c.
DARRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

Enclosure in No. 60.

Memorandum communicated to M. Spalaikovitch.

LE libre accès aux marchés de Djakova et de Dibra devrait être assuré aux habitants des districts limitrophes de l'Albanie, ces deux villes ayant servi de tout temps aux dits habitants de marchés indispensables pour leur existence économique. Ils pourront donc venir dans ces villes, apporter leurs produits pour les y vendre et

y selected articles of [illegible] a quality, whether sort [illegible] Turkish Government. It [illegible] interest to [illegible] police en vigueur.

[41294] No. 54.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 55. Commercial.)
Sir, *Vienna, September 4, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that negotiations are proceeding between the Bulgarian Government and a group of Austrian and Hungarian banks for a loan of 30,000,000 fr. The 'Neue Freie Presse' states that the Bulgarian Government wish to raise a loan of about 800,000,000 fr., of which practically the whole of which will be sought in Paris, but that the French banks are not at present inclined to advance more than 600,000,000 fr. for the more pressing needs of the Bulgarian Government. The 'Neue Freie Presse' adds that a meeting was to be held on a few days ago of representatives of Messrs. de Rothschild of Vienna and Budapest banks, at which a loan of 30,000,000 fr. was decided upon in principle, subject to the consent of the Austrian and Hungarian Ministers of Finance, who are said not to favour the idea. The loan would be repayable within a year with an annual interest of 6 per cent., but the actual interest would be higher. It would be natural on the definite assurance of peace between Turkey and Bulgaria and the re-establishment of normal conditions in the Balkans.

The 'Zeit,' in its leading article of yesterday's issue, protests against the idea of advancing money to Bulgaria at a moment when Austria-Hungary herself is in great financial straits. The paper complains that the Loan is being furthered by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, so as to assist thanks to Count Berchtold, arguing that he shows more sympathy for Bulgaria than for his own country which has plenty of distress in poverty. But 'Zeit' concludes by pointing out that even if Austria-Hungary has no money to lend Bulgaria, being doubtful as to the uses to which it would be put, and that Russia is also working to prevent the raising of a Bulgarian loan in Paris. If France and Russia lose sight, says the 'Zeit,' it is surely scarcely the moment for Austria-Hungary to step into the breach.

I have &c.
(For the Ambassador),
G. AGAR-ROBARTES.

[41432] No. 62.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 65. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 8, 1913.*

M. Tossanian, Military Attaché, who is a member of the Albanian Frontier Commission, has been waiting at Durazzo for orders to engage mules, etc., but none have arrived, and he thinks it unlikely that present consultations will be at the mercy of the Austrian and Italian delegates, who are supplied with dragomans and staff while the other Commissioners have none. The Austrian and Italian Commissioners are, it is said in Janina, not likely to work together for any length of time. (All the Albanian press is protesting against the occupation.) The Italian Commissioner told the Russian Military Attaché that the Commission is not to mark the frontier, but only to report on the nationality of the population of the disputed districts. The Military Attaché, who knows something of the country, says that this will make the decision a foregone conclusion, as everyone speaks Albanian whatever their proclivities. He anticipates armed resistance from the people who are to be restored to the tyranny of the Montenegrin boss. Some rights might be granted if the frontier were delimited after two years' enjoyment of strategical roads, etc. He is telegraphing to St. Petersburgh for further instructions having nothing at present but description of the points of the Ambassadors' resolutions. The French Chargé d'Affaires is also telegraphing in the above sense.

[41437] No. 63.

Mr. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 327.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 8, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 327 of 7th September (Paris).

Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that he has definitely fixed 28th September (new style) as date of Russian commissioner's departure from St. Petersburgh for Albania. As regards withdrawal of international forces, he observed that Russia was not directly concerned.

[41439] No. 64.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 329. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 8, 1913.*

SOUTHERN ALBANIA frontier.

My Italian colleague states that his Government have information that Greek Government have sent large bodies of troops to Koritsa and Argyrocastro as well as to Janina, and that they are arming populations of localities through which proposed frontier will run.

[41441] No. 65.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 8, 1913.*

YOUR Telegram No. 220 (Post) September to Berlin.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, to whom I communicated substance thereof, entirely agrees and said he would at once telegraph to Vienna urging necessity for some definite proposition.

[41440] No. 66.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, September 8, 1913.*

I HAVE communicated to German Minister for Foreign Affairs substance of your telegram No. 327 of 7th September to Paris.

His Excellency feels little direct interest in Albania, but accordingly agrees with your fear of trouble if there be no Commission of Control to commence work as soon as possible. I learn as if privately from myself, that it looks as if the Austrians were making delays as regards the Powers, for instance, by desiring Durazzo to Scutari as a meeting place, and as Accordingly I am instructed to speak to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to-morrow morning and to urge necessity of haste. It is to be noted that all the German delegates were for Scutari as the only possible place to meet. He also communicated treaty of July with regard to southern frontier of Albania, and said that German delegate had been at Brussels since 1st September and was still awaiting arrival of Austrian and Italian delegates.

He said that Austria seems to be in no hurry for northern frontier, and that the German delegate could not possibly start until 15th October, as his Government had suggested to Austrian Government that Commission might continue work without waiting for him.

As regards international troops in Scutari, Secretary of State is very anxious to withdraw German contingent, but does not feel sufficiently cognisant of local conditions to express an opinion as to when withdrawal may be possible.

[41156] No. 67

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot

(No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 8, 1913.*

SIR R. RODD'S telegram No. 170 of 7th September. Southern Albanian frontier. Have you any information to confirm this?

[41486] No. 68.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 459.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, September 8, 1913.*

AT the meeting of the peace delegates this morning the Turks proposed frontier running from South of the Maritza through Orakeui to a point near Mustapha Pasha, and, beyond that the old Bulgarian frontier to the sea.

The Bulgarians made no counter-proposals.

(Sent to Sofia.)

[41561] No. 69.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey. (Received September 9.)

(No. 460.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 9, 1913.*

I HAVE ascertained that the Moslems and Greeks of Western Thrace, who fled from the Maritza to the Mesta, have formed a league to resist Bulgarian reoccupation. The latter urged the Ottoman Government to consent to the establishment of Ottoman sovereignty over Dedeagatch. The organiser appears to be Bekir Bey, a former well-known Hamidieh Pasha, but the most prominent leader is said to be Ismail Bey, who distinguished himself in the Balkan war.

It is now reported that Moslems are crossing in large numbers from the interior, influenced by negotiations with Bulgaria, and pressure is said to be brought to bear on the Ottoman Government to withdraw the telegram No. 462 of 29th July.

It is not easy to gauge accurately the extent to which the press campaign in respect of the Moslems who left the Mesta districts has been twice exaggerated by the Greeks and Turks. It is now asserted that these populations number 800,000 and 1,000,000 respectively, which is practically what they were before the war.

(Sent to Sofia.)

[41572.] No. 70.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 9.)

No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Paris, September 9, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 324 of 4th September.

The French Government would have no objection to a Greek representative accompanying the Albanian Delimitation Commission if the other Powers consent. The Greek Minister here wished the French Minister for Foreign Affairs to take the initiative in the task of proposing it, which he is not prepared to do.

[41559] No. 71.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 9.)

(No. [illegible].)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September 9, 1913.*

ALBANIA.

French Government are as anxious to withdraw their military force as soon as possible, and French Minister for Foreign Affairs concurs in views expressed in your

telegram No. 327 of 7th September. He would be willing, if you wished it, to join in concrete proposals to be agreed on between British and French Governments, but he fears Austrian and Italian Governments might oppose arrangements suggested jointly by France and England.

My impression is that French Minister for Foreign Affairs would wish that you, as the president of the Ambassadors' reunion, should make some practical suggestions for consideration of all Powers.

[41560] No. 72.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 126. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September 9, 1913.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs spoke to me this morning about the Ægean islands occupied by Italy. He asked whether I had any information as to the intentions of the Italians. I said that I had none and, upon my asking him whether he had, he replied that he had information which came from London and Italian newspapers which had the appearance of a desire on the part of the Italian Government to evade withdrawal, and the French proposal at Rhodes reported that the proceedings of the Italians there denote a permanent stay.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs asked what would be your attitude in opposing that Italian Government, on the plea of the pressure of public opinion in Italy or on some other pretext, failed to withdraw from the islands. He wished me to enquire.

[41547] No. 73.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 9.

(No. 166.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 9, 1913.*

SIR R. RODD'S telegram No. 179 of 7th September.

I have no definite information, but I have always thought it possible that resistance would be organised, and that at least it would not be discouraged by the Greek Government (see my printed daily preceding telegram of 8th September and my despatch No. 290 of 27th August).

In a farewell conversation with me the late Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs argued that Greek Government had given up the coast in order to preserve Epirus and that since Koritza was taken from them they were free of Bulgaria to use or render any force. He relied much upon actual occupation, and said guns were mounted on [illegible]. Quantities of ammunition and 30,000 Greek troops in Epirus.

There is no doubt as to strength of feeling about Koritza throughout the country and among the Greek natives of conquered districts.

Communication authorised by your telegram No. 191 of 2nd September was made yesterday.

[41565] No. 74.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 203.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 9, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 121 of 5th September. Evacuation of Orosh.

I am told officially Servian troops have evacuated Orosh, but are holding strategic heights to the immediate south and to the north-east of that town.

Servian Government promises to withdraw troops across the frontier when delimited, but it is noteworthy that the line they now occupy is precisely that of watershed between the Black Drin and the Fanvogel, which has been claimed as a natural frontier.

(Sent to British admiral at Scutari.)

[41556] No. 75.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 204.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Belgrade, September 9, 1913.*

ROYAL decree of annexation issued to-day.

[41566] No. 76.

Mr. C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 179.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Bucharest, September 9, 1913.*

MR. CRACKANTHORPE'S telegram No. 201 of 3rd September.

Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me, so as to forestall being approached officially, that he has instructed Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires at Belgrade to discourage Servia and Montenegro from appealing to King of Roumania as arbiter, as His Majesty would decline the honour. There was no desire here to be mixed up in differences of the allies.

(Sent to Belgrade and Cettinje.)

[41682] No. 77.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 462.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, September 10, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 460 of yesterday and your telegram No. 416 of 21st August.

Enver Bey has arrived from Adrianople to inform Government that army insists on retention of Demotika and Ortakeui and other places west of the Maritza as support for defences of Adrianople, just as in July possession of Adrianople was alleged to be necessary for the safety of Constantinople.

According to trustworthy information from Xanthi, Turkish forces that reoccupied that town and Gumuljina were commanded by Eshref Bey and Captain Sami Bey, and at latter place new Turkish authorities were said to be about to collect taxes, &c. At both places local Moslem militia was being enrolled.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[41775] No. 78.

Note communicated by Servian Legation, September 11, 1913.

D'ORDRE de son Gouvernement la Légation Royale de Serbie a l'honneur d'informer le Gouvernement Royal de Sa Majesté britannique que l'annexion des territoires conquis a été déclarée par la proclamation de Sa Majesté le Roi de Serbie du 2[illegible] (v. s.) et que les nouvelles frontières ont été fixées de la façon suivante :—

Du côté du Royaume de Bulgarie, conformément au traité de paix conclu à Bucarest ; du côté du Royaume de Grèce par l'accord serbo-grec ; du côté de l'Albanie, conformément à la ligne de démarcation provisoire et aux décisions de la conférence des Ambassadeurs à Londres, jusqu'à la démarcation définitive de cette frontière par une commission internationale *ad hoc* ; du côté du Royaume de Monténégro, conformément à la ligne d'occupation militaire jusqu'au règlement définitif ; du côté de la Bosnie-Herzégovine, conformément à l'ancienne frontière.

Légation Royale de Serbie, Londres,
le 9 septembre, 1913.

[41828] No. 79.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 11, 1913.*

MY despatch No. 146 of 19th August.

I am informed at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that a formal arrangement was in fact come to at Bucharest between Roumania, Servia, Greece, and Montenegro, guaranteeing the *status quo* in Macedonia as against Bulgaria.

(Sent to Bucharest, Sophia, Athens, and Cettinje.)

[41839] No. 80.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Rome, September 11, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 329 of 10th September to Paris: Albanian Southern Frontier Commission.

I learn from the Foreign Office that the Italian delegate left Salonica on 9th September and is due at Brindisi to-day. Austrian delegate is also on his way there. Russian delegate is waiting at Athens to join his colleagues as soon as they are assembled.

But Italian Government have no news of the French delegate, although they know that French War Department has been requested to nominate him.

[41816] No. 81.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Vienna, September 11, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 329 of 10th September to Paris.

Austrian delegate left Vienna yesterday for Brindisi.

[41813] No. 82.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 167.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 11, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 149 of 9th August.

The Italian Government have informed the Greek chargé d'affaires that they are "prepared to discuss" the question of admission of a Greek delegate to the Albanian Frontier Delimitation Commission on condition that an Albanian delegate is also admitted, and that Greeks immediately evacuate territories already definitively allotted to Albania.

Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs has no objection to first condition, but protests against second, and urges evacuation should not take place until delimitation is complete. I strongly advised him, since eventual evacuation is inevitable, to give way and so predispose Powers in favour of Greece as regards debatable districts, but he is greatly afraid of effect of public opinion.

[41933] No. 83.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received September 12.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, September 11, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram, dated the 11th instant, from Vice Admiral Burney relative to Albanian affairs.

I am, &c.

W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure in No. 83.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September 11, 1913.*

FOR some time to come, certainly until the Government is firmly established and arrangements have been made to the gendarmerie and police force, it is considered that 1,000 men at least will be wanted at Scutari. In view of this fact the withdrawal from Scutari of the international force would seem very inadvisable.

[41943] No. 84.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 464.)

(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, September 12, 1913.*

THE Bulgarians have proposed that frontier should be on 20-kilom. radius round Adrianople and discussions are proceeding on that basis. Turks insist on retention of Demotika and Sarai, while Bulgarians require that frontier should leave the Maritza at Kuleli Bourgas. If the Bulgarians gain this point they are said to be ready to abandon claim to Kirk Kilisse but expect retrocession of territory in North-Eastern Thrace. Both sides seem conciliatory.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[41945] No. 85.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 337.)

(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, September 12, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 325 of 11th September.

I HAVE now received *aide-mémoire* from Russian Government stating that they could not oppose the session of a Greek delegate, since southern frontier was not precisely defined at Ambassadors' Conference in London, and since its delimitation must be based on ethnological considerations.

[42508] No. 86.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Crackanthorpe.

(No. 123.)

(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, September 12, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 203 of 9th September.

You are authorised to associate yourself with your colleagues, if all are similarly instructed, in pressing the Servian Government to order immediate withdrawal of the Servian troops behind the frontier as fixed at the Ambassadors' Conference in London, which has been formally accepted in note communicated by the Servian Legation here notifying the new Servian boundaries.

[41973] No. 87.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 230.)

Sir, *Rome, September 8, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs had expressed a desire to see me, and was himself unable to leave Foggia owing to a somewhat severe attack of gout, I motored there this morning and saw his Excellency, as well as the President of the Council, who is also undergoing a cure.

The Marquis di San Giuliano was apparently under the impression that I was leaving in the course of the next few days for England, and had therefore wished to put certain matters before me for personal communication to you. As, however, should leave be granted to me, I had not contemplated leaving Italy for at least another fortnight, I will also place his observations on record.

He said it was once more the question of the islands which preoccupied him. He was ready to repeat for the twentieth time in the most formal manner possible, that Italy had no intention of retaining any one of the islands now occupied by herself, neither Rhodes nor Stampalia, nor any other. What she had undertaken to do she would abide by.

He hoped and felt you were convinced of the sincerity of the declarations made to you by the Italian Ambassador in London, confirming those which had been made at the embassy here.

But there was one point on which he felt a certain nervousness. The Anglo-Saxon mentality was different from the Italian. Englishmen took words at their face value. Italians read into the intentions and significances into phrases, and he was alarmed by the dread of some misapprehension arising which might have the very consequences which it was his greatest object to avoid, namely to occasion a feeling of irritation between the two nations owing to the excessive susceptibilities of the Italian people. He wished to appeal to me to place his views before you, because I knew what that Italian mentality was and he thought that in the probability you, accustomed to deal with the sceptical and direct mind of the Anglo-Saxon, might not have perceived how wholly a word which in itself, and as used by an Englishman meant no more than its strong significations implied might become a source of danger to the excitable Italian.

I then gathered that he was under the impression that there would be an early session of Parliament, in which he apprehended, through a question arising out of the necessity of declaring policy as to the islands, that words might have to be said regarding the islands of this sort which I was able to reassure him, and explain that Parliament would not meet again before next year.

He then came to the matter under discussion and said what he was specially anxious to secure was that, in any public statement which might have to be made, nothing should be said which could possibly be interpreted here as applying reserve or menace in regard to the islands. The Italian Government had publicly declared their intentions and any utterance which appeared to suggest doubts as to their loyalty would give rise in Italy to serious difficulties and might compromise the good understanding which it was his earnest aim to maintain. I must have seen how certain Italian papers had endeavoured to represent that your speech at the close of the session had been intended to convey a sort of warning to Italy. The Government had endeavoured to correct public opinion on that point, but the fact that it had been raised showed how very susceptible opinion was in this respect.

He therefore hoped if the subject came up again, due consideration would be given to these susceptibilities in making any public announcement, and that it might be found sufficient, if in the meantime circumstances had not changed, to say that there was nothing to add to your statement. He had, in view of the recent utterances of certain journals advocating a revision of policy in view of subsequent events, discussed with the President of the Council whether anything more should be said here on the subject. But Signor Giolitti had decided that no notice should be taken of these newspaper politicians. No serious importance need, in his opinion, be attributed to their views, and there was no doubt that Signor Giolitti understood the feeling of the country, and took his decisions in accordance with his experience. He had stated in the Chamber the intentions of the Government, and was firmly resolved to abide by them.

After I had seen the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I paid a visit to the President of

the Council. Signor Giolitti was under the impression that his colleague had intended to say some time, and himself, in the course of conversation, introduced the question. He said he was at a loss to understand why it was assumed in certain quarters that Italy contemplated evading her undertakings, and he referred especially to the insinuations of the French press in this respect. He had declared his policy once for all in the Chamber when the question had been raised as to what the future of the islands would be. He had then said that Italy had no intention of retaining any of them, the population was entirely Greek, and the last thing he would contemplate would be to give occasion for a current of Hellenic irredentism directed against Italy. He had never gone back, and had no intention of going back on what he had then announced. The Treaty of Lausanne had provided for their restitution to Turkey before the Balkan war broke out, before there was any question of the transfer of Ottoman territory to Greece. Circumstances had caused, and might continue to cause, inevitable delay, but Italy was bound by her treaty obligations.

I was very glad to have received so categorical a statement from Signor Giolitti on the subject, who is a man of his word, and one who weighs carefully the significance of any announcement which he makes. So long therefore as he remains in control of public affairs in Italy, whether directly or indirectly we may think, rest assured that there will be no revision of policy. Other valid reasons have now manifested themselves to explain the constant efforts which Italy is making to secure the good will and friendship of Turkey, as in so doing she is not only associating herself with the policy of her German ally but she hopes to obtain valuable commercial concessions. I am, therefore, now disposed to think that there is no necessity to connect these efforts with any ambition to secure the permanent retention by a bargain with Turkey of an island as a naval station a possibility to which I referred in my despatch No. 229, Confidential, of the 2nd instant. In coming to the above conclusions I do not think that Italian statesmen have adopted this attitude altogether willingly, but they are, I believe, convinced that any other course would meet with strong opposition from Great Britain and France, and they have therefore thought it more prudent to take the initiative and disavow any intention of doing what they realise would bring them into inevitable conflict with those Powers.

Under these circumstances, I submit that it may be politic in the interests of good relations to give due consideration to the appeal of the Minister for Foreign Affairs that nothing may be said which could be interpreted here as implying any doubt as to the loyalty of Italian declarations, or as suggesting the exercise of pressure which the susceptibility of Italians might regard as humiliating.

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

[41974] No. 88.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 240.)
Sir, *Rome, September 9, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 228 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that, since my return to Rome, I have been making some enquiries as to the circumstances under which the delegation from Adrianople was received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and an official communication was made of the language which was used on the occasion.

The account generally made public was that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had been in Rome, on his way from Viareggio to Foggia, and was detained by an accident to his automobile, just at the moment when the delegation arrived, and, therefore, he received it at the Foreign Office. Further enquiries on the subject have elicited the explanation that Rome was the last capital visited by the delegation, some three weeks after their progress through the capitals of the Great Powers had begun, and that during this interval circumstances had changed, and the question of any pressure on Turkey to evacuate Adrianople had been eliminated. There did not seem, therefore, to be any adequate reason why the Minister should decline to receive the delegates.

So much for the actual reception, but this explanation does not account for the official communication to the press, and the encouragement which it must have given to the belief that the question of Adrianople was practically settled in favour of

Turkey—a settlement for which Italy would have no doubt in virtue of this communication acquire merits at Constantinople.

The real explanation is of course to be found in the anxiety of Italy at the present moment to pose as the friend of Turkey, and prepare a favourable disposition for the railway and commercial concessions which she hopes to obtain. Under the circumstances, the independent action or expression of opinion of the Minister for Foreign Affairs in a matter in which the concert of the Powers is interested, and which theoretically at any rate, is still *sub judice* seems open to some criticism.

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

[41959] No. 89.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 459.)
Sir, *Paris, September 12, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour with reference to my telegram No. 125 of the 3rd instant, to transmit to you herewith copy of a note from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs in reply to the memorandum which I addressed to his Excellency on the receipt of your telegram No. 527 of the 7th instant relative to the measures to be taken to set up some form of government in Albania and to the withdrawal of the international troops.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

Enclosure in No. 89.

Note communicated to Sir F. Bertie by M. Pichon.

EN réponse à la note de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique en date du 8 de ce mois, le Département des Affaires Etrangères estime, d'accord avec le Gouvernement Royal, qu'il y aurait le plus grand intérêt à ce que la Commission internationale de Contrôle en Albanie fût appelée à fonctionner dans un délai aussi rapproché que possible. Le délégué du Gouvernement de la république, M. Krajewski, se trouve actuellement à Durazzo et déjà à Scutari.

De mûrie, M. Pichon partage les vues de Sir Edward Grey en ce qui concerne le retrait des troupes internationales aussitôt que l'organisation de la gendarmerie locale permettra l'adoption de cette mesure. Le Gouvernement de la république se ralliera volontiers aux propositions qui pourront être prises par les Puissances en vue du retrait des contingents internationaux.

En priant son Excellence Sir Francis Bertie de porter ces communications à la connaissance du Gouvernement britannique, M. Pichon saisit, &c.

Paris, le 10 septembre, 1913.

[42118] No. 90.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 160.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 3, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 156 of 8th September.

I have just learnt from Austrian Chargé d'Affaires that the German Minister for Foreign Affairs read to him the other day the *aide-mémoire* I had left giving substance of your telegram No. 527 of 7th September to Paris. Baron Flotow, however, who is not very conversant with English did not understand a word, and did not think it necessary to ask German Minister for Foreign Affairs what it meant and has consequently taken no action. I have explained to him the sense of the communication, and said that, though I had had no instructions to ask German Government to impress on Austrian Government the need for a speedy meeting of the Commission of Control, it appeared to me personally that the delay was due to Austria, and that it was probably hoped that German Minister for Foreign Affairs would act in that sense.

I begged Baron Flotow, if he thought himself justified in doing so, to report that the German Minister for Foreign Affairs had indicated need for haste, and he promised to do so. Baron Flotow told me that Austrian information was to the effect that Albania was quieter and more settled than it had ever been, but he agreed personally that it was desirable that Commission of Control should get to work as soon as possible, and promised to do what he could to represent that view to his Government.

[42112] No. 91

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 13.*)

(No. 128.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September 13, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 329 of 10th September.
Following are French delegates to Albanian Boundary Commission:

Lieutenant-Colonel Fournier, French military attaché at Belgrade.
Captain Perrier, of the military geographical service.

On South Albanian Boundary Commission:-

Lieutenant-Colonel Lallemand, chief of military survey service.
M. Graverot, French consul at Larissa and Volo.

North Albanian delegates will leave France for Albania 10th September, South Albanian cross a few days later.

[42116] No. 92.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 13, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 323 of 12th September. Evacuation of Albania.

My colleagues as well as myself have as yet only instructions to give advice to Servian Government, which I did yesterday. Reply was usual one of fear of trifling incursions and necessity of guarding frontier. My Austrian and Italian colleagues wished, notwithstanding recent representations, to advocate, but pending further instructions I held back as I was prejudicial to harmony, and therefore possessing little value in present state of Servian Government unless Russia were fully associated.

Austrian Chargé d'Affaires had a rather heated interview with Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning. Latter accused Austria of trying to frighten Europe against Servia, and finally suggested that the best way out of difficulty would be for Austria to occupy Albania, give Djakova and Sanjak to Montenegro, and so guarantee comfort and economic welfare of the neighbouring states. Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs has previously declared to Italian Chargé d'Affaires any political motive for retention of troops. Austrian Chargé d'Affaires tells me that up to to-day Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs has appeared generally disposed to improving Austro-Servian relations.

Have Acting Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs quite decided on the subject to-day he said that if the Powers, after creating Albania, could not protect her and prevent her attacking her neighbours Servia would have to do so (see my despatch No. 194 of yesterday's date). Servia had not the slightest fear of Austria if the latter wanted to pick a quarrel.

[41560] No. 93.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 332.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 13, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 326 of 9th September. Ægean Islands.

I have intended to let the matter drop. I shall take it up with Italian Ambassador, who has given very explicit assurances on the subject, on his return to London, and if no progress is made I shall point out that Italy is apparently, by cultivating cordial

relations with Turkey while Turkey's engagements as regards Tripoli remain unfulfilled, acquiescing in non-fulfilment of those engagements. This will be in practice collusion between Italy and Turkey to enable former to remain in the islands.

I must consult Prime Minister and my colleagues when we reassemble after the holidays as to what our attitude should be if Italy indefinitely prolongs her occupation.

(Repeated to Rome, No. 264.)

[42510] No. 94.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 333.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, September 13, 1913.*

THE Greek Government represent they cannot indefinitely remain in occupation of Dedeagatch. They deferred withdrawal in deference to the wish of the Powers, but now ask that some arrangement may be made forthwith to enable Greece to evacuate. Ask the Government to which you are accredited whether they have received such representation and what they propose to say or do.

[41559] No. 95.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. T. Russell.

(No. 266.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, September 13, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 327 of 7th September to Paris.

Press Minister for Foreign Affairs to give a reply to above telegram. It is a matter of great and urgent importance that the Commission should meet as soon as possible. It might meet first at Scutari to take over affairs from the admirals, and then proceed to any other locality which Austria desires, and to which the other Powers would agree.

[42117] No. 96.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 14, 1913.*

REFERRING to telegram No. 206 of 12th September. War contributions.

Minister for Foreign Affairs thinks that there is some misunderstanding. Austrian Minister at Belgrade was only instructed to repeat representations already made. But they seem to be now somewhat doubtful as to how far representations could properly be made in view of armaments, and if representations only have reference to previous proposals they would presumably imply some kind of restitution of excessive duties levied.

[42280] No. 97.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 54.)
Sir, *Cettinje, September 1, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch No. 20 of the 11th August, transmitting to me copy of a memorandum communicated to you by the Austro-Hungarian Embassy respecting the purposes to which, in the opinion of the Austro-Hungarian Government, the Montenegrin Government should devote the loan which, it is proposed, shall be made to them under the guarantee of the Six Powers.

I would venture to express the opinion that it is desirable that precautions should be taken that the money should not be squandered, or that it should not be devoted to purposes, such as the purchase of war material, &c., which would not meet with

* Also to Earl Granville (No. 329), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 265), Sir R. Rodd (No. 265), and Mr. O'Beirne (No. 639).

the approval of the Powers or even to the peaceful development of the country. But the scheme drawn up at Vienna appears to enter somewhat too far into detail and to be likely to arouse the opposition of the Montenegrin Government. It might be more practical to invite the Montenegrin Government to indicate the purposes to which they consider the money should be applied, and then, on the approval of the Powers, to obtain some guarantee from them that the money should not be devoted to other objects.

The need for the foundation of an agricultural bank has already been recognised. Out of the loan of 145,000*l.* from the Boden Credit Anstalt of Vienna contracted at the end of 1911, some 100,000*l.* was to have been available for this purpose. 35,000*l.* was actually lent in this manner; the remainder is understood to have gone in mobilisation expenses.

As regards the roads, it would remain to be seen whether the Montenegrin Government would consider the choice of the proposed routes to be in accordance with their interests rather than with those of Austria.

The Bojana drainage scheme, should all the difficulties have not been overrated, prove to be remunerative, and it is even possible that the Montenegrin Government could carry out their part of it without the financial intervention of the Powers; but the completion of the harbour works and quays would be thrown open to the flags of all nations, would probably be frequented chiefly if not solely by the vessels of Austria, and would therefore arouse opposition in Montenegro. It might be desirable in the general interest of all the parties concerned that a stipulation of this kind should at least be applicable to the Bojana.

It is proposed to set aside 3,000,000 francs for pensions to disabled men of the war, for widows, and for orphans. No provision is made for the payment of the war requisitions, though the Montenegrin Government would probably consider that it was their most pressing need, as the peasants have lost a great deal of their sheep and cattle, if not more.

The supplementary loan of last October was to be reckoned with next year, but of course no funds are at present available for the purpose. If the moment present itself when Montenegro is reduced to the necessity of applying for a loan, the Montenegrin Government will be tempted to have recourse to the same expedient for raising their subsidies.

I have, of course, shown the memorandum to the Montenegrin Government of so-called theocratic projects. As I have already reported, the King has made frequent and rather pressing inquiries with regard to the progress of the negotiations between the Powers on the subject. The Government are in great straits for money, and the want of it is strengthening the tendency to look to Servia for support.

I have, &c.

J. DE SALIS.

[42184] No. 98

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 15.*)

(No. 155.)

Sir, *Belgrade, September 7, 1913.*

IN my despatch No. 143 of the 17th ultimo, I had the honour to report that though public opinion here would generally welcome a betterment of Austro-Servian relations, it was considered that Austria's attitude both before and after the recent war could not afford much hope in this direction.

I have subsequently learned that M. Pashitch, prior to his departure for Marienbad on the 1st instant, caused it to be generally understood in political and journalistic circles that any advances on the part of Austria would meet with a favourable reception here.

At first sight this intimation of the Servian Premier gives the impression of constituting a continuation of the well-worn Servian policy of oscillating between Austria and Russia, that of flirting with the one in order to raise suspicion of the affection of the other; but a more probable explanation is that it was intended as a *ballon d'essai* to prepare the ground for a new commercial treaty with Austria, for which negotiations may shortly begin in Vienna. I have at present from M. Spalaikovitch that the Servian Government is anxious that this treaty should be negotiated. Since the conclusion of the recent war a growing spirit of independence is becoming noticeable in this country. Servia feels that she has, so to speak, attained her majority, and that having, with the help of Roumania and Greece, secured a fair promise of stability in Macedonia, she can pursue a national policy of her own. She is now passing through

a phase of extreme self-satisfaction. Her own successes and failures contrasted with the general failure of Austrian diplomacy, and the assertion that she has definitely asserted her right to the respect of Europe, inspire a ruler perhaps more prone to gratify his Austrian subjects for historical reasons.

It is not to the interest of Servia or of Europe that Servia and Austria should not see their way to a working agreement for a treaty of commerce which, like or what the future of Europe will be. From conversations I have had at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, I gather that the official standpoint here is to the effect that Servia, having secured outlets for her trade elsewhere, Austria has, on her side, far more to gain from a treaty than Servia. On the other hand, this is regarded now as important as on political grounds, and for the furtherance of the great work of internal reorganisation that at least neighbourly relations should be established with Austria. Not without hope is expressed that Austria will consent to admit Servian imports of live stock at the measure which this country is at present in a position to demand, and it is expected that a treaty which did not contain some such *quid pro quo* elsewhere, or which emphasised any continuance of economic subjection to Austria, would be very unpopular here.

I have been informed from a private source that M. Pashitch is not taking a very sanguine view of his return to Belgrade at the end of the present month, one reason given being that he fears he cannot reconcile consistently with his recent attitude his father-in-law Vesitchpalitch, who has become a strong opponent in Austrian quarters. Another reason given is that he wishes, after the strain and stress of the last year, to retire for a while from the turmoil of internal politics. In this event his place would probably be taken by a figurehead, who would in turn retire when M. Pashitch considers the time was ripe for him to return to office. A week ago there was already talk of a Ministerial crisis, but it took a similar form to the recent one, M. Ljuba Stojanovitch, Minister of Agriculture and Justice. It is significant that one of the causes of the resignation of the former is said to have been his opposition to an Austro-phil policy.

It now remains to be seen whether Austria-Hungary will take advantage of the present favourable moment to improve her relations with Servia, or whether she will persist in her attitude towards her Slav provinces which is not the best of good relations. One of the reasons given by M. Pashitch for his departure was that it would not be part of Servia's policy to again initiate things this time, to have any part to play generally, as it is felt that any forward policy in this direction just now when the country is exhausted by war, would be prejudicial to the chances of successful internal reorganisation. But the real difficulty seems to be in the probability to which allusion was made in my despatch No. 148 of the 27th ultimo, that, in the course of time, Austria-Hungary's aspirations will run counter to those of the Austro-Hungarian South Slavs will be more and more irresistibly drawn towards a greater Independent Servia, and the active agitation which Austrian apprehensions will arise not from without, but from within.

Finally, in considering the prospects of a better state of Austro-Servian relations, the fact should not be lost sight of that the situation in Albania continues elements of very serious friction, with which I am dealing in a separate despatch.

I have, &c.

DARRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[42183.] No. 99.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 15.*)

(No. 156. Confidential.)

Sir, *Belgrade, September 9, 1913.*

AS I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 201 of the 3rd instant, the frontier negotiations between Montenegro and Servia which have been conducted in Belgrade have reached a deadlock.

I have now been informed confidentially that the choice of two alternative offers was given by the Servian Government to the Montenegrin delegates.

These offers were —

1. Vuchidol, Plevlje, Ipek, and Djakova, but excluding the rich Metoja plain which extends from Ipek to Prizrena and to the east of Djakova;

2. Ipek, Djakova, and half the Metoja plain, but excluding Plevlje.

The Montenegrin delegates said, however, instructions to claim Prevlje, Ipek, and Djakova, and the entire Metoja plain. Hence the deadlock.

The Montenegrin delegates have now all left Bulgrade but it is hoped that when they arrive at Cettinje and report personally to His Majesty the way may be paved for a renewal of negotiations.

Under the Serbo-Montenegrin Treaty signed last year the frontier question was in the last resort reserved for the arbitration of the Kings of Greece and Bulgaria. I am informed at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that, the arbitration of King Ferdinand being now inadmissible, the Servian Government would be willing to accept the King of Roumania as joint arbitrator, should Montenegro still desire two arbitrators. A strong current of opinion however is discernible in the Belgrade press in favour of arbitration, if ultimately resorted to, by delegates from the two Skupshtinas. The mischief-making that has arisen on the frontier question between the two kingdoms following on events, normally after the war with Bulgaria, is much deprecated as calculated to prejudice Servia in the eyes of Europe.

I gather that King Nicholas is directly responsible for the difficulties that have arisen and that he has no confidence that the excessive claims put forward by Montenegro will secure Italian support for a pecuniary compensation, which would presumably end up in the King's pockets. It appears that the Metoja plain is rich in mineral resources, and that King Nicholas has stakes out, so to speak, a claim which is, however ready to waive if it is made worth his while. I have written on the highest authority that His Majesty is quite content with the Servian Press's satisfying Montenegro, and abstract from the Royal requirements.

The Serbian attitude is more towards His Majesty is that a certain measure of complaisance must be shown in view of the family ties that bind him with Italy and Russia; but the Royal House is openly looked forward to as likely to facilitate a basis for the two kingdoms.

I have &c.
DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

42149 [1] No. 100.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 788. Confidential.)
Sir, *Constantinople, September 10, 1913.*

With reference to your despatch No. 277 of the 5th September forwarding a copy of your telegram No. 215 to Sofia of the same date, I have the honour to transmit herewith a memorandum by Mr. Noel, giving an account of the conversation for which Monsieur Venizelos asked me on the 8th instant.

As Monsieur Venizelos alludes in the last paragraph of his communication to the question of the Italian Dodecanese, I have the honour to report that Signor Giolitti, in a speech delivered in the Chamber of Deputies on the 5th instant, stated that the Italian Government had been in communication with the Ottoman Government, and that the latter had given a formal assurance that the Italian occupation of the Dodecanese would not be prejudiced by the conclusion of peace between Turkey and the Balkan States.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

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[1] Not printed.

[42226 No. 101

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey. Received September 15.)

(No. 146.)
Sir, *Sophia, September 10, 1913.*

SINCE the date of my despatch No. 145 of the 30th ultimo, the advance of the Turkish forces, regular or irregular, westwards through Thrace has proceeded steadily. In ignorance of the agreed postponement of the date of transfer of occupation the Greek authorities at Gumurjina and Dedeagatch hurriedly handed over those places to the Bulgarians on the 21st August, but the latter were almost immediately forced to withdraw their force because the Turkish occupation of Karjali and Mastanli, on the main road from Gumurjina to Bulgaria, threatened to cut off their retreat.

The note from the Bulgarian Government, of which a copy is enclosed, was merely summarised in my telegram No. 200 of the 2nd instant. The account given therein of the steps taken naturally not very powerful check, but I see no reason to doubt its substantial accuracy, at any rate as far as the Turkish occupation of Karjali and Mastanli, and the main road from Gumurjina to Bulgaria, is concerned, to cut off their retreat.

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The line of the Ottoman advance, as usual, is traced with tolerable accuracy in the communiqués of the Turkish War Office, which are issued at Constantinople to enable a censorship of the evidence of such outrages taken by Mr. Greig Smith, a representative of the Bulgarian Relief Fund from a number of refugees whom personally interrogated at Haskovo, and the Times correspondent, the Japanese attaché in which have been found during the Turkish occupation of Karjali, Malgara, Dedeagatch, Gumulgina. The treatment of the Christian population by the Turkish troops is more than is to be expected, and the reports of outrages will have been largely by the Greek regular troops, the work of irregulars, the irresponsibility of which

The military attaché to His Majesty's Legation here proceeded to Sophia from Constantinople with the Ottoman Government's permission, together with the military attachés of the other Powers, and returned on the 7th instant. He was informed on the 5th instant by the Bulgarian Government that Karjali and Mastanli were in possession of the Turkish troops, but that the Bulgarians still occupied Dedeagatch and Gumulgina. Subsequent events have of course caused this information to be entirely out of date.

After discussing the question with the Ottoman Government, the Greek Government decided on the 30th ultimo to withdraw peremptorily the Greek troops from Dedeagatch and Gumulgina, and to hand over the administration of those places to the Ottoman Government. The latter thereupon immediately telegraphed to Constantinople, and the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed to the Bulgarian Minister there their satisfaction at the Greek decision, and their hope that the Bulgarian Government would withdraw their troops from Karjali and Mastanli. The Bulgarian Government, however, refused to withdraw their troops from Karjali and Mastanli, and the Porte thereupon informed the Greek Government that they could not withdraw their troops from Dedeagatch and Gumulgina, and that the Greek Government must therefore take the responsibility of refusing to withdraw their troops from Dedeagatch and Gumulgina. The Greek Government, however, refused to withdraw their troops from Dedeagatch and Gumulgina, and the Porte thereupon informed the Greek Government that they could not withdraw their troops from Dedeagatch and Gumulgina, and that the Greek Government must therefore take the responsibility of refusing to withdraw their troops from Dedeagatch and Gumulgina.

I saw M. Toshef on the 2nd instant on arranging his departure for Constantinople. He was much depressed, saying, "Je suis très triste de vous dire que la situation générale est très mauvaise pour la Bulgarie." He was not hopeful of the result of the negotiations between Turkey and Bulgaria, but considered that the Bulgarians would be forced to cede Adrianople to Turkey, and to retire behind the line of the Maritza. But the Bulgarian Government would not be able to withdraw their troops from Karjali and Mastanli, and would not be able to withdraw their troops from Dedeagatch and Gumulgina.

[1658] N

...l return to Sophia, the Government would, ... I believe, be interrested ... from here would become more critical. He suggested ... very special stress on one point in writing to you, and seems to think that it would weigh with you. There is, in fact, among all parties and persons, from the highest ... who have been responsible for public affairs in recent times a vague fear as to the possibility of some violent manifestation of public resentment at the disastrous ... which has brought the country to such a pass, a manifestation of which the weakest form would be a socialist and agrarian victory at the polls. They are therefore afraid, not only for their country, but for themselves, and, disappointed on all sides from whence help was expected, they would be ready to grasp at any expedient to justify themselves by some tardy measure of success. The possibility of buying the assistance of Roumania against Turkey, the chances of a collision between Turkey and Greece, with the chance for Bulgaria of selling her help to either party in return for Cavalla, are not perhaps entertained in Government circles, but they are discussed outside by those who cannot be doubted that, were the waters of Ægean politics once more to be troubled, this or any Bulgarian Government would be glad to plunge in. By any means they might see a healer of the present schism. I apply no opportunity for so doing as yet in sight.

I have, &c.
W. O'REILLY

[42227] No. 102

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 247.)

Sir, *Sofia, September 10, 1913.*

WITH reference to Sir H. G. Bax-Ironside's despatch No. 133 of the 12th August, I have the honour to transmit herewith, under cover, a memorandum drawn up by Mr. Vice-Consul Hewitt throwing further light on the massacre of Bulgarians at Serres and the events which accompanied the occupation of that town by the Bulgarian troops.

As a good deal has been written concerning these events in Serres, which, I believe, were visited by foreign consuls and other investigators, it would seem desirable that the Bulgarian version of those occurrences should now receive some attention, not only with a view to ... issue, but also in view of the heavy claims for damages which the owners of large property destroyed in the conflagration at Serres will no doubt bring against the Governments of the countries concerned.

It has therefore appeared desirable that the evidence of the witnesses bearing on the subject should be given in some detail, more especially as the events they narrate are hardly likely to have come to the notice of those who have conducted their enquiries under the auspices of the Greek authorities.

I have, &c.
W. O'REILLY

Enclosure 1 in No. 102

Memorandum by Vice-Consul Heard

THE enclosed evidence of four survivors of the Greek massacre in Serres, which is corroborated by the testimony of two other survivors, Straty Georgieff and Dimo Smiloff (page 8 of my memorandum of the 17th August), and also by the statement on page 2 of the Bulgarian Government's *aide-mémoire* enclosed in Sofia despatch No. 122 of the 24th July last, would appear to establish conclusively the fact that a systematic battery of Bulgarians was carried out in the girls' school, attached to the Metropolitan's establishment, during the period of the 51st–54th July, while the town of Serres was completely in the power of the Greeks.

The evidence shows that all male Bulgarians in Serres and neighbouring villages who could be collected were imprisoned in the school house and butchered daily in detachments. When the Bulgarians attacked, the remainder were hastily finished off with the exception of those in the basement who managed to overpower their guards. The Bulgarian observer's version of the manner in which the fire started is supported by the testimony of the Exarch, and there is good ground for supposing that the Bulgarians were in no wise responsible for the outbreak which occurred during the fighting, and subsequently destroyed a great part of town.

In connection with the massacre at Serres, I may add that two representatives of the Balkan Bureau at Paris have collected ... statements from the Macedonian refugees which fully corroborate in detail the account ... by the surviving other Greek witnesses. I am glad also to have ... evidence, as especially as I believe it will enable that ... Commander ...

W. B. HEARD.

... November 1, 1913.

Enclosure 2 in No. 102

Statement recorded from Survivors of the Greek Massacre in Serres.

GEORGHI BELLE (Protestant of Strumitza, hospital orderly of the 2nd battalion 7th regiment of the Drama brigade, states that he took two wounded prisoners after the fight at Nigrita. He seriously wounded a Greek and set out on the 5th September, Serres at 1 p.m. 3rd July, and after stages at Demirli, Kalendra, but could not find it. Returned to Serres two days later and found the bodies of the Greeks. The seriously wounded Bulgars had been left there. Hospital. He was captured by Greeks, shut up for two days in a bakery, and for four days in the girls' gymnasium with about 250 Bulgars, of whom, about seventy (himself included) were of the second floor. Every evening from ten to fifteen were taken to the floor above, shot, bayoneted, and their bodies were carried away. On the third day the Archbishop spoke a few reassuring words to them, telling them not to fear as his religion did not allow Greeks to massacre defenceless people such as the Bulgars. On the fifth day Greek irregulars arrived and ordered them to say that they should be sent to Turkey. They were then taken upstairs in batches of five and massacred. When his turn came he was knocked past the room full of corpses and, swimming in blood and pushed through a door of the next, where a Greek ran at him with a bayonet. He fell ... to many persons shot on him and stabbed in four or five places, and ... feigned death. After he had recovered consciousness he was ... by two doctors of the British Red Cross, at the request of the Bishop of the Bulgarian Church. The corpses, counted exactly, were in excess of the number which they ... had killed.)

Meanwhile, the Bulgarian attack on Serres was drawing near, and Belle, hungry and weak, ... of corpses, left the gymnasium, crept up and concealed himself in a room where he remained about seven hours. He saw ... the corpses of five Greeks and one Greek ... with respect. Of these ... was the only survivor.

The massacre began at 10 or 11 A.M., and lasted for an hour and a half. The prisoners in the basement, who had been locked up, were all massacred. Here are their ... (This is incorrect. See Dr. Lemonof's statement. Witness, however, was evidently ... Bulgarians got into Serres ... on the day. After the ... the school was in flames and these ... were burned ... alive.

Witness stated that two days before, some 200 Greek soldiers had come to the town and ... the armed civilians into squads of ten, each under command of a soldier. On arrival of Bulgarians there was street fighting and shooting from windows. Artillery fire was directed on stations where numerous armed Greeks were assembling.

This witness was first interrogated by Mr. Osterman, Assistant Assessor at Samakof.

2. Chrsto Dertliev, native of Serres, stated that Bulgarians entered Serres on the 5th July, after defeat at Nigrita, owing to ... town, and lost. The Bulgarians ... filled with the troops. On entry of Greek irregulars he ... and to save his family at ... and escape ... from his house. The town was soon occupied by ... Turks, who seized a big stock of rifles captured ... war. On the 5th July Greeks and Turks ... house to house search for Bulgarians, crying "Wherever has a gun ... to be found, kill the Bulgars." He saw over ... Dimotic, taken from ... opposite the Greeks, without crying, "All the Bulgars must be collected ... sent to the Metropolitan." Bulgarians passing from outside were also taken. On the 6th July he was discovered and taken to the Metropolitan girls' school. He was ... of all his money and taken to room on the ground floor, together with forty-six other persons. Afterwards six men from Drenovo were brought in, and they and ... were taken upstairs and their cries were heard soon after. His arms were then bound and he was

taken upstairs into a room where there were fourteen bodies, three still living (Christo, of D[illegible], Petr of Broh[illegible], and Prokop of Krushev[illegible]). He was told to lie down, and the "executioners" went out. Names of latter were Take [illegible] Petros, Theohar Kalebji, the brother of Cavass Yor[illegible] [illegible] Greek [illegible] and an evzone. Later [illegible] finished off three [illegible] with [illegible]. Just then a man [illegible] with badges on his sleeve came in and asked how many Bulgars had been killed. They replied fourteen, and he said it was enough for that evening. Witness was then taken back to lower room. On the 9th July [illegible] fresh victims were brought in and then taken upstairs [illegible] butchered, [illegible] six more from the basement, [illegible] were [illegible] after [illegible]. The Bulgarians were being [illegible] at the rate of fourteen per evening. Two of his companions [illegible] Archdeacon in the basement saying, "Do not fear, we are not like the Bulgarians."

On [illegible] the [illegible] there were sixteen people in [illegible] room. He heard Greek [illegible] [illegible], "All the Bulgarians will be massacred [illegible] later. Fly, [illegible] Bulgarians [illegible]." A [illegible] started [illegible] to an evzone [illegible] tried to reassure [illegible] "[illegible] the Bulgarians, [illegible] will [illegible]." [illegible] two [illegible] cell [illegible] room [illegible] were [illegible] they were taken upstairs [illegible]. After [illegible] taken up [illegible] He [illegible] the six [illegible] check [illegible] still shows scars [illegible] threats of [illegible] were out [illegible] whole [illegible] The [illegible] [illegible] sight. Thirty [illegible] in the same room with [illegible] women [illegible] seized after they came to [illegible] escaped [illegible] shortly after.

[illegible] of the Bulgarians were [illegible] [illegible]. The Bulgarians [illegible] Serres [illegible] left towards [illegible] The [illegible] at [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] at the [illegible] Greeks of Serres [illegible] by local [illegible] the [illegible] on the [illegible] He [illegible] Serres [illegible] not [illegible].

The [illegible] Monday [illegible] August) [illegible] [illegible] from Serres. [illegible] Dr [illegible] from Serres [illegible] who told [illegible] Kuku[illegible] Greeks had [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Dr. [illegible] Josef's [illegible].

[illegible] of [illegible] 701 [illegible] Durra stated that [illegible] [illegible] afterwards [illegible] towards Serres [illegible] bridge over Serres [illegible]. Here were [illegible] seventy Bulgarian soldiers [illegible] some thirty [illegible] small [illegible] Greek [illegible] appeared [illegible] they [illegible] without resistance. They were [illegible] Greeks [illegible] that Serres was in the hands of the Greeks. [illegible] to Baroski Dimitri [illegible] The Bulgarian villages in this region [illegible] Here they remained till the 7th July, and then proceeded to K[illegible] from Serres [illegible] bread. Here were [illegible] Greek infantry, to whom they surrendered. All were killed except [illegible]. The [illegible] were [illegible] Serres [illegible] 8th [illegible] They were robbed [illegible] Taken [illegible] sixty prisoners [illegible] many [illegible] women [illegible] was taken to basement, where he found about twenty-five villagers and [illegible] soldiers, who had been taken upstairs. About [illegible] saw through [illegible] two [illegible] from upstairs, [illegible] peasants [illegible] marched away with arms bound. He could not say what became of them. On the 10th July large numbers of townsfolk were brought in, perhaps sixty

On the 10th bread was given them, and the Metropolitan came and blessed them, saying "We are not like the Bulgarian barbarians, we do not kill people. King Constantine has entered Dor[illegible] [illegible] will send you there." Outside were about sixty Greek soldiers on guard, and in the prison some forty more. On the morning of the 11th July firing was heard, and about midday one of his companions, who understood Greek, heard some [illegible] saying outside the door, "If the Bulgarians come in we must destroy everything so that they may find nothing when they arrive." Five or six soldiers passed with [illegible] and [illegible] and soon shrieks were heard from upstairs. Afterwards about twenty corpses were thrown from the window as above. The Greeks then descended to basement and let out three Grecoman Bulgars. They then prepared to bind them, and the prisoners, thinking their end had come, uttered loud outcries [illegible] massacre [illegible] Georgi Bel[illegible]). At this moment, however, the Greeks realised that the Bulgarian troops were getting into Serres [illegible] they deserted the schoolhouse, leaving only four soldiers to complete the work. One Izak of Kustet [illegible] cried, "Let us seize the [illegible] and escape!" The prisoners managed to overpower the four soldiers, [illegible] three of their own number. [illegible] [illegible] was [illegible] progress, [illegible] Turks and gypsies [illegible] out. They [illegible] Greeks [illegible] their own houses [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] assure [illegible] that [illegible] was so. The Greeks [illegible] the reception of the town by the Bulgarians [illegible] packed all their [illegible] and [illegible] of the Konak. They were crying "To Salonica! To [illegible]!" and were evidently ready to start. He saw some bodies of Bulgarians lying in the streets. The Greeks were streaming out of the town [illegible] and five [illegible] [illegible] themselves [illegible] empty [illegible] Konak. Towards [illegible] [illegible] the town [illegible] the 50th [illegible] whom he showed the scene of the massacre in the schoolhouse. The interpolat[illegible] [illegible] the masses [illegible] He informed the [illegible] that there were [illegible] in the hospital, but they could not get [illegible] to the [illegible] which was [illegible] he saw [illegible] the Greek [illegible] for the Drama [illegible] The [illegible] Greek [illegible] gardens [illegible] Bulgarians [illegible] N[illegible] Prokop [illegible] Krushev[illegible] [illegible] from [illegible] the Bulgarians [illegible] [illegible] escaped [illegible] massacred.

The above witness was brought by a Protestant pastor of [illegible].

[illegible] Dimitri Karanfilof [illegible] of Serres gave the following evidence [illegible] of the [illegible] Mission:—

On Saturday, the [illegible] July, the Greek [illegible] was [illegible] to [illegible] he was [illegible] account of his family. On Saturday [illegible] most of the Bulgarian population left. On Monday Greek [illegible] rifles. They also [illegible] that [illegible] rifles had been taken from the [illegible] Serres. On [illegible] Greeks came [illegible] and [illegible] him to [illegible]. He was taken to M[illegible] house [illegible] was [illegible]. He was then removed to school. Here [illegible] guards what they wanted [illegible] them [illegible] that they had [illegible] from their officers to [illegible] all the Bulgarian race at Serres. He was shown [illegible] fifteen other Bulgarians. On Wednesday four Bulgarian soldiers were [illegible] morning. On Thursday morning some Greek [illegible] asked the names and places of birth. On Friday morning the Greeks removed them to [illegible] room where they were bayonetted. Whilst he was awaiting his turn a woman of about 50–60 years was brought in and killed with a bayonet. He said to one of the Greek guards whom he knew well, "What have I done?" The Greek replied by a bayonet thrust in the breast. On the ground he received three more thrusts about the neck and head when he lost consciousness. When he revived, finding all quiet, he extricated himself from the bodies of the slain, and, with five or six others in the same plight, made his escape (11th July). The town was burning and he saw in the streets Bulgarians dead and dying.

Karanfilof's scars were examined by his interrogator and found all correct.

[42187] No. 103.

Mr Crackanthorpe to Sir E. Grey.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 153)

Sir, *Belgrade, September 10, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from His Majesty's vice-consul at Uskub relative to affairs in Albania.

I transmit at the same time the telegrams referred to which is made in the above despatches) exchanged between this legation and His Majesty's vice-consulate in regard to the rumoured attack on the Servian envoy's abolati

The situation is exceedingly involved, and in order to understand the apparent contradictions in Servian policy towards Albania, the following facts must be grasped

1. That no unity of action exists among the Albanian tribes,
2. That they are open to bribes from various sources, and
3. That while some of these tribes have been won over to Servia, others have not.

The basis of Servian policy is to establish the fact that the new principality cannot possibly become "viable," and to encourage centrifugal tendencies for this purpose. The policy is of necessity opportunist as to its methods, and these methods therefore differ according to individual local circumstances and to the attitude of different tribes.

On the one hand, a successful policy of conciliation has been adopted towards the Mirditos, as a consequence of which Servian troops are able to be retained on the strategic heights near Orosh without arousing hostility. On the other hand, it seems to be the object of Servia herself to encourage disturbances in the tribes by a policy of pinpricks and with a view to seeking primarily an excuse for the retention of her troops within the limits of Albania, and ultimately justification for an advance in order to restore tranquillity. Austrian propaganda is of course another element of disturbance and adds to the general confusion. I learn in this connection that modern Austrian rifles have been taken in considerable quantities from Albanian prisoners during recent encounters.

As I remarked to the Servian Government in my despatch regarding its system of administration within its own borders, it is to be feared that such as is indicated in Mr Peckham's despatches is bound to occur.

I do not think that the Servian Government is quite so ignorant of the Albanian population as Mr Peckham would suggest.

I am sending a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's vice-consul at Uskub by safe opportunity.

I have, &c.
DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

P.S. A somewhat significant article appears in the "Politica" (a paper of independent views, but which sometimes reflects the Foreign Office) of to-day, which, after pointing out that Europe, by creating an autonomous Albania has succeeded in sowing fresh elements of disturbance and of balkanism, states that Servia cannot possibly allow things to go on as they are, and must put a stop to continued Albanian intrigues. It proceeds to point out that it was Europe that created Albania, it is her duty now to see that order is maintained and that Albania as a peaceful life to the neighbouring states. If Europe however, is not willing or prepared to do this, then Servia will be obliged to send a punitive expedition into the new principality. It is the duty of the Servian Government to make representations in this sense to Europe. Should Europe succeed in putting the Albanian regimen, and out of Albania creating a State, Servia will be only too willing to assist this State in her development.

D. C.

Enclosure 1 in No. 103.

Vice-Consul Peckham to Sir E. Paget.

(No. 41)

Sir, *Uskub, August 19, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report a massacre of Albanians at Vrchnika.

About a fortnight or three weeks ago two Albanians arrived there from Vranya Vucitrna, the home of Hassan Bey, ex-deputy for Prishtina Sanjak, and it seems were at once suspected of an intrigue of that sort. In consequence the Servian authorities collected fifteen Albanians from the district, seven from the town, including the Mufti of the two Vranya Albanians, took them out of the town to a place where a grave had been dug, and there put them to death, without the formality of any sort of trial, nor so far as I can gather, from any other motive than that of mere suspicion.

Two Vrchnika Albanians subsequently came here and complained to the Vrbovna Komanda, which does not appear to have denied the complaint. "What do you expect? this sort of thing always happens during a war."

My informant, who has always been for the Servians, said that there was no excuse but there was reason for this "incident" possibly the Servian Government might have another tale to tell.

I have taken every opportunity lately of ascertaining Albanian feeling north of the Shar, and I refer to last year's despatch, No. 49 of the 9th July, 1912 to Salonica), that the most Albanians of Prishtina Sanjak, were in general not much more hostile during than their brethren further west.

It seems to me that, even if such energetic measures were absolutely necessary—and morally I do not see any proof as to the Servian Government—they will have a deplorable effect on future Serbo-Albanian relations. In their mixed communities that they themselves are completely overlooked, that the Albanians, the latter scourges, the Servians seem to lose sight of the fact that their new Albanian will be neighbour Servia, which might be well to consider in case of an Austro-Servian war.

I have, &c.
W. D. PECKHAM.

Enclosure 2 in No. 103.

Vice-Consul Peckham to Sir E. Paget.

(No. 42)

Sir, *Uskub, August 28, 1913.*

WITH reference to my telegram Nos. 34 of the 27th instant and my despatch No. 17 I have the honour to report that so far as I can ascertain the rumour with regard to the fresh movement of Isa Boletin was correct.

My Dukagjin friend Abdi of the Mirditos is at Orosh, and I have not heard that his great influence has been used to the cause of peace. I think, therefore, that the Servian statement that their relations with the Mirditos are good is probably correct. But your telegram suggests the possibility that the Servian Government are under the impression that the Gegs do not fight, Malissors, Mirditos, &c. Mr. Dodds this would explain the amazing ignorance of this country which the Servians have shown throughout. Even the Mirditos, I think, by no means follow that other "fis" (tribal groups) such as the Nikaj-Mertur, the Shoshi, Shoshi would recognise neither the spiritual authority of Abbot Doda nor the temporal authority of Prenk Bib Doda will not be hostile.

M. Gavrovich, formerly Servian consul here, who is head delegate of his foreign Ministry at Prishtina and whom I met about a fortnight ago, told me that there had been a good deal of pressure among the northern fis, such as the Nikaj-Mertur, but that it was successfully resisted by the International Administration at Scutari. He ascribed it to Austrian intrigue, while not denying the extent to which it had been encouraged from Vienna, I do not believe that it was solely due to this cause. On the one hand a Servian would be capable of attributing any difficulty, including a destructive earthquake, to the machinations of the "Shvab," on the other the Albanians have some ground for unrest. A year ago Albania included Prizren, Ipek, Prishtina, and even Uskub (see my despatches Nos. 48 of the 15th August and No. 75 of the 19th September, 1912 to Salonica) now it is cut into in such a way as to leave populous Albanian districts and the best land outside.

And there are other motives for unrest far more cogent than disappointed ambition. The monastery of Decheni has produced a charter of one of the old Servian Kings enumerating a long list of the villages granted to it and this title has been considered good, despite many changes under the Ottoman Government, the owners of land are in future to pay rent to the monastery and also to pay four years arrears. It is true that this granting of prescriptive rights is not so flagrant an injustice as it would seem, as by Mohammedan law prescription does not begin to run while the usurper is so strong that the owner is afraid to sue. Article 1063 of the Mejelle is as follows: "La prescription n'est valablement acquise lorsque la possession a été viciée dans sa cause par violence ou clandestinité." Occupation of land by force or secretly does not confer ownership, but lasts many years ought to dispossess an adversary or an absentee (Translator's note). Both princes) But it must raise uneasy suspicions among the Albanians that possibly the new Government would recognise no title to lands held by the Ottoman Government.

The Vienna Ambassadors' despatch No. 1 of the 19th instant seems to show that one of its objects is to ascertain the composition of the Albanian force. It may possibly be a purpose of refugees from the Kossovo, of which many thousands are known to be in the country west of the Vardar. But the presence of Isa Boletin suggests rather that use is to be made against both the Young Turk Government and the Servian Government of those who vigorously protest against the Powers' policy.

Isa Boletin's force, I would point out, is little more than a brigand band recruited mainly from Dibra and the Serbian borders, is believed to be strongly armed. On the other hand, it was in Servian pay before the war and is believed still to be in receipt of Servian money. This band is not very large, but the Albanians are a fighting people, and the Malissori are said probably considers that the "Gjak" should feel bound to defend himself and the whole Servian army, which has many Albanians in it, against the attacks of their country's traditional enemies among the other Balkan States.

In Isa Boletin's forward movement, as has been suggested, I am told that this is due to action taken by the International Gendarmerie Officers.

I would point out that the very recent occupation of Albanian territory south of the Shkumbi by Greek troops is very significant. As I have reason to know that the Greek Government is strongly opposed to the Vienna Ambassadors' scheme for the creation of an Albanian army, which would be largely officered by Austrians, and which would be employed in collecting taxes, it is probable that the Greek Government, which has always refused to pay taxes to the Albanian Government, is determined to show by the occupation of the Malissori district that it is able to cause disorders.

I have, &c.
W. D. PECKHAM.

Enclosure 3 in No. 103.

Vice-Consul Peckham to Mr. Crackanthorpe.

(No. 34.)
Sir, *Uskub, August 25, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Isa Boletin with an Albanian force some 1,000 strong is at present in the neighbourhood of Djakova. I do not know or what has caused this, probably caused by a Servian attempt some three weeks ago to levy taxes in Albanian territory.

Enclosure 4 in No. 103.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Vice-Consul Peckham.

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 26, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 34.

Servian Government deny rumoured attack. I am assured that friendly relations exist with Malissori. On the other hand, attitude of the Malissori in the neighbourhood of Dibra is causing uneasiness.

[42188] No. 104.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 15.*)

(No. 160. Confidential.)
Sir, *Belgrade, September 11, 1913.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch it has come to my knowledge from a source which I have reason to consider as trustworthy that an agreement in regard to future Greek and Servian spheres of interest in Albania was discussed between M. Pashitch and M. Venizelos at their recent meeting at Uskub and finally consigned to writing at Bucharest. The agreement is to the effect that should circumstances arise under which Albania should lose her independence or which might call for the intervention of Greece and Servia, the boundary line between the respective spheres of interests of the two countries shall be the River Skumbi.

I have, &c.
DARELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[42190] No. 105.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 162.)
Sir, *Belgrade, September 12, 1913.*

WHEN I saw M. Spalaikovitch yesterday morning I was pained to be sorry to be agitated by a telegram he had received from the Servian Minister at Rome reporting that the Italian Government was proposing to send a detachment of soldiers to escort the North Albanian Boundary Commissioners and had approached the Austrian Government as to whether it would not be well to send an equal number. Rhodes despatch sent but it was not proposed that the Austrian escort should join the Servian Albanian Boundary Commission, as Greek troops were likely on the spot, but apparently it was feared that there were no Servian troops in North Albania.

The more M. Spalaikovitch talked on mentioning this matter to me was it clear that it was merely for the Powers to send for one or two of them separately to escort the necessary escort to the Boundary Commissioners. I told His Excellency I rather thought the Powers would themselves arrive at an entirely satisfactory arrangement on this point.

I have reported this conversation because M. Spalaikovitch evidently attaches more importance to the matter than its face value appears to warrant.

I personally suppose that the Austrian soldiers between Vasa-Eli and Scutari and the Servian troops still stationed in North Albania might be brought to the Italian proposed and Servian interests that Austrian and Italian troops are in North Albania may not be worth while, but they eventually be increased.

I have, &c.
DARELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[42136] No. 106.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 15.*)

(No. 208.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 14, 1913.*

IT is feared here lest withdrawal of Servian troops from Albania may be followed by Austrian occupation (see my despatch No. 162 sent by bag) which view this view to be that of the Crown Prince and the army.

In view of this it is doubtful whether further joint representations would prevail upon lines with Austrian Government, which already pointed out that the Powers are not quite in accord. Failure of further representations might create serious tension between Austria and Servia.

I venture to suggest, as a purely personal opinion, that it might be useful to add to representations words to the effect that any policing of North Albania which may be necessary pending organisation of gendarmerie will be effected by international force.

[42399] No. 107

Mr. G. Bernc to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 335.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, September 15, 1913.*

YOUR circular telegram No. 333 of 13th September to Paris.

Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that Russian Government have received a similar representation from Greek Government.

They have addressed communication to Bulgarian Government calling attention to the danger of Dedeagatch being left unoccupied and to necessity of hastening negotiations with Turkey in order that Bulgaria may be in a position to send troops to take it over.

Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs considers it absolutely necessary that Greece should retain possession for a few days longer to permit of conclusion of negotiations at Constantinople, and he would be prepared to make representations in that sense at Athens.

[42395] No. 108

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 8. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 15, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 402 of 10th September.

I learn that up to 11th instant Turkish troops, disguised as peasants, and irregulars were being sent into Thrace west of Midia, and that large numbers of Mussulman refugees are being sent thither to settle on Christian villages.

Preparations for despatch of troops to occupy Dedeagatch were being made between Scutari and Feridjik.

Advices from sources usually trustworthy.

(Sent to Sofia.)

[42398] No. 109.

Mr. Murray to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 469.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople September 15, 1913.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that agreement with Bulgaria as regards frontier would be concluded within three or four days. He would give no details, but said that Turkey would retain Demotika, and that terminal point of frontier on the Black Sea would not be further south than Sveti Stephano.

Impression is growing here that Turkish troops or authorities west of the Maritza will purposely, generally speaking, act against Bulgarians as result of the present negotiations. In such case 'Provisional Government' would resist, as far as possible, occupation, to which it is expected that resistance would not be formidable unless encouragement from Turkey.

I do not attach importance to assertion that movement was spontaneous, but I can attach no value to his assurances on this matter.

(Sent to Sofia.)

[42401] No. 110.

Count Benckendorff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 15, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 333 of 13th September to Paris: Dedeagatch.

Count Zimmermann, Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Greek communication on to-day and told Greek Chargé d'Affaires that he would not reply before consulting other Powers.

His Excellency would be ready to consider any suggestion, but can himself see no other possible course than for the Powers to inform Bulgarian Government of intended evacuation by Greek troops of Dedeagatch and urge them to occupy it.

[42447] No. 111.

Sir F. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 244.)
Sir, *Rome, September 13, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 230 of the 8th instant the following official contradiction was published this morning by the Stefani Agency:

"The Free Ottoman Agency publishes in a despatch from Paris an assertion that great popular demonstrations are being prepared in Italy to demand the annexation of Rhodes.

"There is no foundation for this statement, and Italy maintains the principle that no Great Power shall derive territorial advantage from the present Oriental crisis."

Commenting on this *démenti*, the "Popolo Romano," the Government organ, remarks that a leader that has continued disturbances of more or less dangerous consequences had rendered it necessary, for although the Nationalist party declined all responsibility for such reports, they continued to be circulated in the foreign press.

The Foreign Office had therefore again reiterated any desire for annexation, letting it be clearly understood that the Government had no intention of allowing their hand to be forced by anyone. The insinuations of the Free Ottoman Agency were probably intended to influence opinion at Constantinople in regard to the integrity of the pledges held by Italy at a moment when the Porte was possibly contemplating some means of removing from Cyrenaica the units of Turkish troops which *bon gré mal gré*, were still there. The official *démenti* of the "Popolo," is therefore, as will step for a few days at least, the most decisive answer to press organs opposed to the Italian Government's action, although it is considered superfluous for the mass of the Italian public and for those abroad who know exactly how matters stand.

I have, &c.
(For His Majesty's Ambassador),
HERBERT G. FRING.

[42431] No. 112

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 209.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 16, 1913.*

A TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs has just declared that orders have been sent to withdraw troops to the east bank of the Black Drin river. Their retention there must, however, depend on attitude of tribes.

Wiser counsels may prevail owing to desire not to foment trouble at moment when Europe Troops are still within three miles of Monastir as drawn at the Ambassadors' Conference, but I can assure that vital Albanian interests will be respected.

(Repeated to Constantinople.)

[42588] No. 113.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 257.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Rome, September 16, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 333 of 13th September to Paris.

Greek Government have urged the Italian Government to concur with the Great Powers arrangement which will permit Greece to hand over Dedeagatch to the Bulgarians.

The Italian Government have consulted the Powers as to their views, and enquired through their representatives at Sophia the intentions of the Bulgarian Government as to the occupation of Dedeagatch. The Bulgarian Government have

replied that they are unable to proceed to occupation until Turco-Bulgarian agreement has been reached respecting the frontiers of Thrace.

Italian Government hear that the Russian Government strongly urged the Bulgarian Government to occupy Dedeagatch, but that they have as yet received no reply.

[42587] No. 114

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 16.*)

(No. 3[illegible])
(Telegraphic) *Vienna, September 16, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. [illegible] of 13th September to Paris.

Austrian Government received similar communication from Greek Government. They have not made reply, and do not propose to take any action.

According to latest information from Salonica, Greeks withdrew part of their forces from Dedeagatch, but recently landed some troops there again.

[42117 No. 115

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Crackanthorpe.

(No. 1[illegible])
(Telegraphic) *Foreign Office, September 16, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 261 of 9th September to Sir F. Cartwright. Will communication Vienna yet accordingly?

42117 No. 116

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 267)
Telegraphic) *Foreign Office, September 16, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. [illegible] of 13th September. War contribution.

I am authorised Sir M. Hotsa (Chargé d'Affaires) to say that the suggested [illegible] of the Balkan allies should receive similar restrictions, and I still do not think it would be desirable to discuss the exact amount to be claimed, as pointed out by Servian Government, who are in possession of figures showing how much was deducted in excess of Turkish subsidiary between occupation and annexation. Repeat to Belgrade No. [illegible].

42679. No. 117

Treasury to Foreign Office.—(*Received September 17.*)

Sir,

Treasury, September 16, 1913.

I HAVE had before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury Sir A. Nicolson's letter of the 25th ultimo enclosing copies of the draft reports of the three sub-committees of the International Commission for the settlement of the Balkan questions arising from the late war in the Balkans together with the draft of a despatch to Sir P. Harvey, the British delegate, proposing to address to Sir E. Grey certain questions involved.

I am directed to make the following reply:—

Their Lordships understand it to be difficult to advise on these documents as the precise points on which their observations are invited are not indicated, and as the questions which arise for discussion at the present stage appear to them to turn mainly upon consideration of policy of which the Secretary of State is the judge. They therefore feel that they can most usefully do more than offer some general observations on the subject of the debt.

The first question is whether the contention of the Balkan allies can be admitted, namely, that while the creditors of Turkey must not be dammified by the territorial

changes which have followed on the war, this result should be effected in a way which will not alleviate Turkish finances by requiring the allies in virtue of their territorial acquisitions to shoulder part of the burden of the Ottoman debt, but that the liability of the allies should be limited to making good (within the limit of the actual past yield of the assigned revenues in the conquered territories) the difference (if any) between the yield of the assigned revenues in territory remaining Turkish and the annual sum required for the service of the Turkish debt.

To this question the answer—so far as my Lords are competent to express an opinion—appears to be that the proposal of the allies is inadmissible, if not in theory, at any rate in practice, and that the bondholders must be safeguarded by a method which will not at the same time cripple Turkish finance, in other words the question of the contribution of the allies to the Ottoman debt should, in their lordships' judgment, be approached from the point of view favoured by the delegations of Turkey and of the majority of the Great Powers.

Sir P. Harvey shows that after excluding the more extreme proposals in either direction, the several calculations of the amount of Turkish debt to be laid on the charge of the allies which proceed from this general point of view according to various systems arrive at results which range from £T 22,500,000 to £T 24,100,000.

This divergence is so slight that it may perhaps not be of vital importance to decide between the merits of the various systems, but for their part their lordships prefer the system of 'specialisation,' based on the mean of the last three years and excluding the 5 per cent surtax, which gives as shown on p. 30 of the report, a result of £T 23,201,902. The system of 'specialisation' not only seems best in principle but also has the great advantage that it prevents any dispute arising (which the system of "proportionate contributions" does not) in relation to allocation of the liabilities between the various Turkish loans.

How far in assuming that the views expressed above correctly interpret Sir E. Grey's intentions it is possible to exercise pressure sufficient to induce the Balkan allies to accept a share of the Turkish debt so large as £T 23,000,000, or whether a sum for compensation can be allowed to them (whatever may be the scope of a war indemnity or otherwise) are questions of policy beyond the province of this Board, but their lordships may perhaps say that they concur in the suggestions of Sir P. Harvey.

(*a*) That if any indemnity is to be allowed, it would be best to arrange that the Balkan States should assume the full gross liability in respect of debt, say £T 24,000,000, balanced on the other side by the indemnity rather than the net liability.

(*b*) Or that if the payment of an indemnity is thought to present too great difficulties it should be treated as the gross share of the Balkan States, the [illegible] might be provided partly by contributions from the Balkan States, and that of the proceeds of a new Turkish [illegible] and the 5 per cent surtax.

Until a conclusion has been arrived at as to [illegible] questions the detail in the foregoing paragraphs may be left aside. It will only be necessary to consider the two parts of detail which are set out in the report in the draft, if, however, there is any special point on which Secretary Sir E. Grey would desire their views they will be happy to look into it.

The three draft reports of the sub-committees are returned herewith.

I am, &c.
T. L. HEATH.

[42690 No. 118.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 17.*)

(No. 1[illegible])
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 17, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 266 of 13th September.

Political Director of Ministry of Foreign Affairs informs me as follows:—

Austro-Hungarian Government are anxious to remove impression which they fear exists in some quarters that they wish to retard matters in Albania. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is equally desirous with you that the Commission of Control should

commence work as soon as possible. The sole reason of delay in the appointment of the Austro-Hungarian member is the difficulty of finding a suitable man; two have taken refusal and we hope to make definite appointment early next week. As regards the meeting-place on which Italy has been consulted, he favours Vallona as being the seat of the Provisional Government with whom the Commission will have to enter into relations. He does not see why the Commission should take over the administration of Scutari, which could merely be handed over to the municipality of that town when the admirals leave. It would not be within the duties of the Commission, whose task is to advise and control the administration of Albania, which could be carried on for the present by the existing Government. This view is in accordance with the Austro-Hungarian Government's standpoint in regard to autonomous régime in Albania.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs is away for two days, and I will see him on his return.

[42710] No. 119.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 17.*)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Rome, September 17, 1913.*

My telegram No. 156 of 11th September.

Sonnino, Prime Minister, Commons and Navy starts for Monastir. Italian Foreign Office are telegraphing to Paris to-night suggesting that French delegates should go there direct instead of first to Brindisi.

[42696] No. 120.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 17.*)

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September 17, 1913.*

Your telegram No. 333 of 13th September.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has instructed the French Minister at Sophia to concert with his colleagues to urge the Bulgarian Government to make arrangements for the occupation of Dedeagatch as soon as possible, and he has directed French Minister at Athens to inform the Greek Government.

[42881] No. 121.

Sir E. Grey to Sir F. Bertie.[*]

(No. 327.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, September 17, 1913.*

ITALIAN Government having strong objections to Scutari as meeting-place for Boundary and Control proposed Valona, it being understood that, having met there, Commission proceed where it likes.

His Majesty's Government, while adhering to opinion that Scutari would be preferable, are ready to adopt Valona, as place of meeting is comparatively unimportant detail. Essential thing is to get Commission started and local authority set up at Scutari to allow of early withdrawal of admirals.

[42585] No. 122.

Sir Edward Grey to Count de Salis.

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, September 17, 1913.*

COMMISSION of Admirals at Scutari have reported to their Governments that principal chiefs of Malissor tribes concentrated on north-east frontier state that, if Montenegro will give assurances that she will not advance troops over old frontier

[*] Austrian Ambassador (No. 332), Sir R. Rodd (No. 766), Mr. O'Beirne (No. 664), and Sir F. Cartwright (No. 269).

line and will permit tribes to trade peacefully in Tuzi, Admiral delimitation of frontier, latter will return to their territory.

Commission attach great importance to acquisition of these assurances to avert outbreak of hostilities, and you are authorised, if your colleagues are similarly instructed, to join in obtaining them.

[42793] No. 123.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 18.*)

(No. 210.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 17, 1913.*

THE Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs told me privately this evening that, in view of further attacks by the tribes, it has become indispensable to reinforce the cordon of Servian troops still within the limits of Albania. He feared these attacks to be instigated by Austrian agents. He further told me that it had now been found necessary to give orders to close access to markets of Dyakova and Djeva, owing to the fact that brigands were availing themselves of this access to enter Servian territory. Though there may be some truth in these statements, I fancy the real Servian object in view is not adverse to working up a situation calculated to influence the Commission of Delimitation.

I have thought best to withhold this information from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires for the moment, as he is excitable and I might try to rush matters on his own account with alarming instructions.

(Repeated to Admiralty at Scutari.)

[42750] No. 124.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 18.*)

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Rome, September 17, 1913.*

ITALIAN Government learn that Austria-Hungary, having learnt that a Greek naval contingent of 1,200 men had been sent to reinforce troops already at Dedeagatch, are enquiring as to meaning of this increase before taking any steps to urge Bulgaria to occupy.

Italian Ambassador at Constantinople has telegraphed that Ottoman Government state that so far as they are concerned there can be no objection to immediate Bulgarian occupation, although they anticipate that population of Dedeagatch will give trouble. His Excellency was told that Turco-Bulgarian peace is expected to be signed 18th September.

Acting Secretary-General of Ministry for Foreign Affairs here to-day told me that, in the event of peace negotiations not proceeding to-morrow, he thought representations at Sofia respecting occupation of Dedeagatch would be unnecessary. Should, however, peace negotiations occur, Italian Government would then be inclined to urge Bulgarian Government to facilitate Greek evacuation.

[42714] No. 125.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 18.*)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Rome, September 17, 1913.*

My telegram No. 150 of 8th September.

I gather from Acting Secretary-General to-day that Austro-Hungarian Government have suggested Valona as meeting-place for Control Commission, and that Italian Government have replied that they would have no objection, but Commission should be free to move about wherever necessary.

Secretary-General said this would mean over to Scutari, but he intimated to me that it was hard considered necessary for Commission to take over control there from admirals, whose functions are rather different from those to be exercised by Commission. He seemed to think that at all events internal or military force would be wanted at Scutari for some time yet.

[42834] No. 126.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 18.*)

(No. 472.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 18, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 468 of 15th September and your telegram No. 461 of 17th September.

Official communiqué announces that agreement as to frontier has been reached as follows:

From Cape Agios at the mouth of the Maritza and ends at the mouth of the Rezvaya, north of Enos, leaving Bendotika, Adrianople and Kara Kilissé to Turkey and Ortakeui, Mustafa Pasha, and Svilengrad to Bulgaria.

Agreement in principle has also been come to on the nationality question.
(Sent to Sophia.)

[43339] No. 127.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Crackanthorpe.

No. 7.
Telegraphic. *Foreign Office, September 18, 1913.*

A SPECIAL Albanian Government learn that Servia has already notified establishment of Servian customhouses at places which at least four Powers regard as in Ottoman territory. They suggest that representatives of the six Powers at Belgrade should request the Servian Government to withdraw these posts, and suggest that this request might be made simultaneously with the communication already authorised to local Albanian agents.

You can act accordingly if all your colleagues agree.

[42882] No. 128.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

No. 1.
Telegraphic. *Foreign Office, September 18, 1913.*

ALBANIAN Government learn that Greek Government are doing everything possible to prevent evacuation of Epirus, and are encouraging Southern Albanians to defy Powers by employment of irregulars and aggressive action against frontier districts.

Albanian Government have made urgent representations at Athens, and Albanian Government have appealed to German Government to do the same.

Your colleagues at Athens are similarly instructed to join in urging on Greek Government the necessity of pursuing right course, which has a chance to succeed only by way of Powers.

[42865] No. 129.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 62. Commercial.)
Sir, *Vienna, September 16, 1913.*

IT is stated in the press that the Director of the Wiener Bank Verein will shortly visit Albania in order to make preparations for the projected establishment of an Albanian bank. This bank is to be instituted jointly by the Wiener Bank Verein and the Banca Commerciale of Milan, and will thus ensure a combination of Austrian and Italian capital in Albania. A share capital of roughly, [illegible] francs (£80,000) is for the present proposed. The bank would have its seat in the town chosen as capital of Albania, and would establish branches and carry on the regular business of commerce and banking.

It is also reported that an Austrian firm, the Handels- und Transport-Akt engesellschaft expects to obtain a concession for a railway from Vallona to Scutari via Durazzo, with a branch to Elbasan and Berat, and that some Austrian engineers have left for

Albania to study such a line and the economic possibilities of the country. The "Tagblatt" expects that if this work is carried out, it will be a joint Austro-Italian enterprise.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
A. AKERS DOUGLAS.

[42851] No. 130.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 19.*)

(No. 468. Confidential.)
Sir, *Paris, September 17, 1913.*

M. PICHON has been absent from Paris, and only returned late last night.

I saw his Excellency by appointment this morning, and informed him that, as he had desired, I had made enquiry of you as to what would be your attitude in opposing that the Italian Government, on the pretext of the pressure of public opinion in Italy or on some other pretext, proceed to withdraw from the Ægean Islands.

I told His Excellency that you had replied (see your telegram No. 392 of the 13th September) that you did not intend to let the matter drop, that the Italian Ambassador had given very explicit assurances on the subject, and, in this respect to London you would revert to the subject, and, if matters had not advanced, you would point out that, if Turkey had not fulfilled her engagements as regards Tripoli, Italy cultivated cordial relations with Turkey, and thereby appeared to have secured the main fulfilment of Turkish pledges, it would be contrary to collusion between Italy and Turkey in order to enable Italy to remain in the islands. I further stated to M. Pichon that you would consult with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet after the 20 days as to what attitude should be adopted by His Majesty's Government were Italy proposing indefinitely her occupation of the islands.

M. Pichon wished me to thank you for the communication which I had made to him, with which he expressed himself as quite satisfied. He felt sure, he said, that if England and France continued their representations, and made it clear as regards the question, Italy would finally carry out her engagements to evacuate the islands.

M. Pichon has no information which would lead him to think that Germany or Austria are encouraging Italy to keep one or more of the islands.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS H. BERTIE.

[42859] No. 131.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 19.*)

(No. 911.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 18, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 210 of 17th September.

Acting Secretary of State saw my French and Russian colleagues together this morning, and assured them that reinforcement of Servian troops was destined for Servian side of Albanian frontier. [Group illegible.] They are telegraphing in this sense. Acting Secretary of State has been very loose in his language to foreign representatives lately. For example, while he appears to have informed all my colleagues that orders had been given to evacuate Albania generally, he has only said that troops would be withdrawn across the Black Drin, this still remaining within frontier fixed at London. I have had to correct false impression regarding evacuation supplied to my colleagues, who have now telegraphed to their Governments in the sense of my telegram No. 209 of 16th September.

(Repeated to British admiral, Scutari.)

[42965] No. 132

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir E. Grey. (*Received September 19.*)

(No. 212.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 13, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 127 of 18th September.

Official commencement was made on 17th September that new Servian customs establishment at Brut, Oksoten, and Mali have been suppressed. Customs establishment at Pogradatz continues.

[42690] No. 133

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 270.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 19, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 110 of 17th September.

The assurances given are most welcome.

If the Commission consider that the municipality of Scutari is capable of taking over the administration the admirals can leave as soon as the Commission expresses that opinion, if the municipality is not thought capable then the Commission must advise as to steps to be taken what administration is to take the place of the admirals. We do not keep Admiral Burney at Scutari for ever, but we cannot withdraw him till assurance that there is some provision for the administration of the town. Is it the opinion of the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs that the administration of Scutari can be handed over to the municipality and the admirals withdrawn without waiting for the Commission of Advice and Control at all?

[42280 No. 134

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 19, 1913.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to inform you that in the course of the proceedings of the Conference of Ambassadors, it was agreed that an advance, guaranteed by the six Powers, should be made to the Montenegrin Government and the Prime Minister conveyed to the Conference the assent in principle of His Majesty's Government to this resolution, subject to the sanction of Parliament.

Records of the proceedings of the meeting at which this question was discussed are accordingly herewith.

In the 1st August the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador communicated to Sir E. Grey memorandum and a copy of words in which the Montenegrin Government should be asked to accept proposals were forwarded for their observations to His Majesty's Minister at Cettinje and to the Board of Trade, whose replies are likewise transmitted herewith.†

I am to state that before replying to Count Mensdorff's memorandum Sir E. Grey would be glad to receive any observations which their Lordships Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may wish to offer on the subject.

I am, &c.
EYRE A. CROWE.

[43124 No. 135.

Mr. Chilton to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 20.*)

(No. 127.)
Sir, *The Hague, September 19, 1913.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 38 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Minister for Foreign Affairs asked the representatives of the six Great Powers to call at the Foreign Office this afternoon as he had a communication to make with respect to the appointment of Netherlands officers for the Albanian gendarmerie.

* Part X. No. 693. † Nos. 41 and 97

When we arrived His Excellency handed us each a copy of a note verbale copy of which I have the honour to transmit herewith and stated that his Government were prepared in principle to despatch officers of the regular army to command the Albanian gendarmerie, but that they were anxious to know what the exact jurisdiction and military status of these officers would be.

The Russian Minister then enquired whether the Netherlands Government would be prepared to send out to Albania a senior officer, who could see for himself and report as to the existing conditions there, the number of officers likely to be required, and of what their status would consist.

M. Cartwright then replied that he had no doubt his Government would agree to this but that he would consult the Council of Ministers. His Excellency asked who would defray the expenses of such an officer or officers, as it might be necessary to send a junior officer also. The Austro-Hungarian Minister replied that he presumed the six Powers would guarantee the expenses for such a journey.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs was also anxious to know under whose authority the Netherlands officers, when appointed, would be and whether they would be under the orders of an Albanian Minister of War. Also by whom would they be paid. To this latter question the Austro-Hungarian Minister replied that he thought that as money would be taken out of the funds of the country M. Cartwright replied that he would be glad to be enlightened on these points by the Governments of the six Powers.

I had a conversation with the Russian Minister this morning as to the question of conveying privately to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the inadvisability of appointing Roman Catholic officers. He told me that the French Chargé d'Affaires had at first appeared at a loss to grasp his Russian and British colleagues in giving this hint to the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs.

M. Sylvain said that if the question of the officers' religion was raised by the Minister for Foreign Affairs during the discussion with the representatives of the six Powers to-day, I would mention that his Government thought it preferable that they should not be Roman Catholics if it were not raised would convey the hint privately afterwards.

The French Chargé d'Affaires, whom I saw after the meeting, said that if the question had been raised he was prepared to state that he believed that the views of his Government were synonymous with those of the Russian Government. When I asked him why he would not associate himself with the Russian Minister to give a private hint, he said he had received no instructions to that effect or accordingly no authority to act in the matter.

I should be glad if you would inform me whether I have your permission to act with the Russian Minister at the French Chargé d'Affaires.

The question of the officers' religion was, however, not raised to-day, and after the meeting the Russian Minister told me that I was not to do anything as early yet to convey a hint respecting the undesirability of appointing Roman Catholics. I said I thought that as the Netherlands Government had only agreed in principle and that was as far as we could go for the moment of submitting the names of the officers it might perhaps be as well to say nothing for the present.

I have &c.
H. G. CHILTON.

Enclosure in No. 135.

Note verbale.

LES représentants de l'Allemagne, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, de la France, de la Grande-Bretagne, de l'Italie et de la Russie ont, au nom de leurs Gouvernements respectifs, fait une démarche auprès du Gouvernement néerlandais pour demander de lui la désignation d'officiers chargés de l'organisation et du commandement de la gendarmerie albanaise.

Le Gouvernement des Pays-Bas se déclare volontiers disposé, en principe, à procéder à la désignation d'officiers dans le but indiqué. Les hauts signataires soumettent cependant à la haute sagacité du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal la question préalable de savoir si ces officiers ne manqueront pas de trouver auprès du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal un accueil attentif.

VAN DER LINDEN.

La Haye, le 19 septembre 1913.

[43076] No. 136.

Note communicated by the Servian Charge d'Affaires, September 20, 1913.

LA Serbie avait commencé à retirer de l'Albanie les restes des troupes qui y étaient encore restées uniquement pour empêcher d'une manière sûre et efficace les irruptions des Albanais sur le territoire serbe, jusqu'à l'organisation en Albanie des autorités chargées de maintenir l'ordre.

Pendant ce temps, des désordres très graves se produisent tout le long de la frontière. Les Albanais, en masses, attaquent, pillent et brûlent les villages serbes. Le Gouvernement royal serbe, informé, a ordonné que l'action préparée et organisée d'une grande incursion de bandes albanaises sur le territoire serbe et que du côté albanais on fait tout son possible pour engager aussi dans ces désordres les Albanais qui vivent sur le territoire serbe et qui jusqu'à présent étaient restés tranquilles.

Le Gouvernement serbe ne peut tolérer cette anarchie, qui augmente de jour en jour, et il a donné l'ordre à ses troupes de défendre aux Albanais le passage sur le territoire et les a autorisés jusqu'à nouvel ordre à l'état normal et à l'ordre établi par les Albanais eux-mêmes à employer contre eux toutes les armes.

En outre, la Serbie repousse toute attaque par la force, et ses troupes, les désordres créés, n'ont pas reçu d'ordre général de faire avancer ses troupes de renforcement vers les positions stratégiques sur la frontière albanaise qui seront indispensables pour garantir la frontière serbe contre les incursions.

Le Gouvernement serbe, aussi, a donné l'ordre à ses troupes de ne pas pénétrer en Albanie, excepté dans les cas absolument nécessaires pour la défense de ses intérêts particuliers et légitimes.

Légation Royale de Serbie, Londres,
le 6 (19) septembre 1913.

[43073] No. 137.

Consul-General Sir Leonard Gray.—(Received September 20.)

No. 127.)
(Telegraphic) *Cettinje, September 19, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 81 of 17th September.

I understand that the Montenegrin Government are taking steps to send troops to the frontier on the ground that concentration of armed troops on the Herzegovinian side is menacing. My colleagues have not yet received instructions to ask for assurances desired by the Commission of Generals at the request of the Albanians. I have told the Montenegrin Government that I hope they will abstain from hostilities, and urged them to give assurances in that sense. I have received no further assurances, and I fear there is a desire to find a pretext for taking some action before the Commission comes with the question.

(Repeated Constantinople.)

[42966] No. 138.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 214. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic) *Belgrade, September 19, 1913.*

ACTING Minister for Foreign Affairs has just informed me privately that the Servian representatives at various capitals have to-day been instructed to explain fully to the Governments to which they are accredited that the Servian troops are being gradually withdrawn from Albania, and that the entire evacuation will be completed as soon as the safety of the frontiers is assured. But it will be pointed out that the situation on Servian territory close to the frontier is very serious, and that an insurrectionary movement has started among the Arnauts, who are being incited by tribes across the Albanian border and are being supplied with arms. It has therefore become necessary to close entirely the Albanian frontier and to reinforce the Servian garrisons along that frontier. Further, should circumstances and the protection of national interests render it necessary, the Servian Government will be compelled not

only to reinforce their troops still within the Albanian frontier, but to push these troops forward in order to restore order.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs proceeded to tell me in strict confidence that other news of a very serious character had reached him. First, that several Bulgarian staff officers were at Vallona and Durazzo with the mission to incite the Albanians against the Servians, secondly, that Austria was facilitating for Bulgaria the purchase of guns and ammunition by means of deferred payments, and thirdly, that two Bulgarian divisions had not yet been demobilised. He asked me to put these facts together, to add to them the forthcoming conclusion of the Turco-Bulgarian negotiations and to find for myself the logical conclusion. I asked whether his Excellency seriously wished me to believe that Bulgaria in her present crippled condition might start on a fresh adventure. He said that he greatly feared that those now guiding Bulgarian politics, especially General Savoff, were in fact adventurers of a very dangerous type. He said that it was his conviction that Austria and Bulgaria were bent on placing every obstacle in the way of Servia's national consolidation. He hoped I would transmit to you the main points of our conversation.

(Repeated to Sofia.)

[43138] No. 139.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Athens, September 20, 1913.*

FOLLOWING from the British delegate on the Albanian frontier Commission, identic telegram. (End of R.) —

"La Commission de la frontière albanaise du sud, à l'exception du délégué français, vient de décider à rapporter aux deux gouvernements respectifs que trois journalistes de l'Agence Athènes au 'Temps' et de la Presse centrale de Berlin prétendent être arrêtés par le Gouvernement hellénique et maintenus dans des faits nécessaires pour suivre la commission et interroger les villageois. La commission est d'avis que le Gouvernement hellénique devrait différer pendant le travail de la commission tout journaliste d'entrer au territoire à examiner."

(R.) The commission leaves for Salonica to-day.

[43146] No. 140.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Vienna, September 20, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 333 of 19th September to Paris.

The Austro-Hungarian representatives to the Great Powers and to Greece have been informed that, in the opinion of the Austro-Hungarian Government, it is desirable that the Greeks should postpone the evacuation of Delagritch until a settlement has been come to between Bulgaria and Turkey at Constantinople, and troops of the former have thus been released.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in informing me of the above, stated that, according to their latest information, this postponement will not be of long duration.

[43143] No. 141.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 214.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 21, 1913.*

I LEARN from a private source that the Servian troops withdrew across Black Drin received orders on Friday to reoccupy points previously held, and that positions on east bank of the Drin have been in turn occupied by troops from Prisrend and Ipek. All garrisons on Servian frontier have been reinforced.

I am informed that an understanding exists between Servia and Montenegro by

where joint efforts are to be made to ... Black Drin frontier for Servia and an extension frontier for Montenegro to ... Koraemi, Strel, and Kastrati by working up the situation

Further information reaches me that Servian Government is treating with Essad Pasha for his support in frontier question.

(Repeated to Cettinjé and Scutari.)

[43140] No. 142

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 21.*)

(No. 476.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 21, 1913.*

WITH the prospect of the Turco-Bulgarian negotiations coming to an early conclusion, there is a distinct tendency here towards an anti-Greek policy, object of which would be, by means of an arrangement with Bulgaria, to coerce Greece into accepting Turkish point of view in the pending negotiations with Greece. Committee press is suggesting that joint pressure by Turkey and Bulgaria might secure Cavalla for latter, and possibly bring about the autonomy of Macedonia (refer to my telegram No. 455 of 21st July), while it is argued that as Europe was not interested in Turco-Bulgarian settlement, question of islands could also be locally treated. It is asserted that the neutrality of Roumania had been secured. Turkish forces in Europe number 300,000 men, and although there are tale of demobilisation recruits are still being collected in Anatolia and transport animals requisitioned. It is also significant that reports of intercross and anti-Servian disorders in Albania, which would obviously favour projects outlined above are being circulated.

(Sent to Sophia and Athens.)

[43263] No. 143.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 22.*)

(No. 477.)
Sir, *Paris, September 20, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the accompanying despatch from Mr. Carnegie, British delegate on the Balkan Financial Commission, respecting the reassembly of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador)
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

Enclosure in No. 143.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.

(No. 33.)
Sir, *Paris, September 20, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that having to call on the Political Director of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs this morning, I took the opportunity of asking him what the views of the French Government were in regard to the Balkan Financial Commission. M. Paléologue replied that there was every intention of reassembling as much important work still remained to be done. He expected that as no questions of a political character remained now for discussion the labours of the Commission would be carried out in a more practical and expeditious manner than had hitherto been the case. The work before it, relating principally to the question of contracts and concessions and other matters of a technical nature would necessarily have to be dealt with for the most part by experts. He did not think that the Commission could possibly meet on the day fixed before it adjourned, viz., the 30th September, and he could give no indication of what date would be proposed. He thought that the Commission would get through its work easily in four and perhaps in three weeks.

On my asking M. Paleologue whether he thought that the two questions relating to the Ottoman Debt and to the Turkish Debt would be again discussed by the Commission, he answered that the former was quite dead. He went on to say in regard to the latter

that of course the interests of the foreign bondholders must not be neglected, but that it would be very difficult to get the Balkan States to take over a share of the Turkish Debt for Bulgaria has no money at all, and the other States will not be in a better off.

I have, &c.
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

P.S.—I am sending a copy of this despatch to Sir Paul Harvey.

L. D. C.

[43403] No. 144

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 21.*)

(No. 217.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 22, 1913.*

YOUR despatch No. 79 of 11th September.

Following on decree of annexation, Ministerial order has been issued introducing Servian tariff into new territories, general tariff towards States with whom there is no commercial treaty and minimum tariff towards others.

[43404] No. 145.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 22.*)

(No. 216.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 22, 1913.*

FOLLOWING from Monastir, No. 28. —

"Great inconvenience and loss is being caused to trade by the closing of local customs and the refusal of authorities to allow entrance of goods pending instructions from Belgrade as to what tariff is to be adopted, as the temporary customs duties in force during period of occupation were also short lived as annexation of Monastir was declared.

"Local authorities state that Servian general tariff is likely to be applied soon. It would be a most crushing burden in the present state of Macedonian exhaustion if this should be the case. In the meantime trade is completely suspended."

I have repeated to vice-consul my immediately preceding telegram of to-day.

[43405] No. 146.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 22.*)

(No. 217.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 22, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 211 of 21st September.

It is stated at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that withdrawal of troops across the Black Drin was followed by determined attack by the Albanians, 6000 strong, who raided Servian frontier. Servians suffered many losses. In consequence former positions have been reoccupied. Three divisions with artillery are being got ready for action. Servian Government contemplates military action on extensive scale.

(Sent to admiral, Scutari.)

[43398] No. 147.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 22.*)

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) R *Vienna, September 22, 1913.*

ALBANIA.

Your telegram No. 270 of 19th September.

I enquired of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning whether, in his opinion, municipality of Scutari was in a position to take over the administration of

the town without waiting for an expression of opinion on this point from the International Commission of Control. His Excellency seemed to be not quite decided on this point, but inclined to reply to my question in the affirmative, though he said he must await the views of the Italian Government. Minister for Foreign Affairs concurred with you that it was desirable to withdraw the admirals as soon as possible, but he was opposed to withdrawal of international troops for the present. No gendarmerie has as yet been created, and the selection of Dutch officer to command it was delayed owing to difficulties with regard to his salary. His Excellency said he hoped you would do all that was possible to hurry on the selection of a Prince, and he seemed to think that international financial assistance might have to be given to Albania.

[43408] No. 148.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 143. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 22, 1913.*

SERVIA and Albania.

Your telegram No. 271, repeats Belgrade No. 213 of 19th September.

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs told me to-day that the Servian Government were massing large bands of comitajis against the Albanians near their frontiers, and in his opinion these complaints with regard to an Albanian insurrectionary movement were grossly exaggerated.

Gravity of the situation was that Servia was evidently trying to pick a quarrel with Austria, which might lead to the creation of a critical state. I enquired of him whether any representations could be brought to bear at Belgrade which, in his opinion, would induce Servia to desist from attacking Albania. He said that he thought that it would be advisable to act promptly, but that the Russian Minister had strongly supported the representations of his colleagues.

As to the expressed wish of Austria at the Montenegrin frontier with regard to certain districts which are to be handed over to Montenegrin rule, and to the payment which has been stipulated in certain quarters to find some compensation for Montenegro elsewhere, Minister for Foreign Affairs is of opinion that, for the present, at least, Albanian frontier as it now is should be maintained in principle, though he admitted that when the Northern frontier Commission comes to meet it might be open to it to suggest a solution implying the grant of financial assistance to Montenegro.

[43407] No. 149.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 22.)

No. 124.
Telegraphic.) R. *Cettinje, September 22, 1913.*

AN agreement was signed yesterday for a joint loan of 5,000,000 fr. by Italian and French Bank. Of this sum, 2,000,000 fr. will be paid at once for the redemption of Treasury notes in circulation, and balance will follow in about three weeks' time.

[43401] No. 150.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey. (Received September 22.)

(No. 162.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 22, 1913.*

ITALIAN Foreign Office hears from vice-consul at Durazzo that Essad Pasha has made various demands on Albanian Provisional Government, and has threatened if they are not all satisfied to set up independent Government at Durazzo.

Ismail Kemal had conceded all points but one, namely, demand that he would render account immediately of all moneys collected on behalf of Provisional Government in Albania. This he refused to do until a Prince was appointed, when he would render accounts to his Highness.

Essad had replied giving Provisional Government until to-morrow (Tuesday) only to comply with this condition, failing which he would establish a separate Administration as threatened.

[43476] No. 151.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 340.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, September 22, 1913.*

INDICATIONS all point to increasing instability in Albania that must lead to eventually, and may at any moment precipitate serious troubles in Albania itself and complications on the frontier. No steps whatever are being taken to improve matters. There are signs that the local authorities are being disintegrated, and the Commission, whose function was to be to advise the Powers, and, pending a definitive Government to exercise control over the native authorities (as agreed in section 7 of the formula adopted by the Powers on 29th July), can not get to work because the Austrian member of it has not yet been appointed, objection is taken to any extended use of the admirals and the international force at Scutari. The position of the latter under these circumstances is scarcely dignified; they are kept inactive, and no preparations being made for all others to hand over their limited functions to any stronger authority. His Majesty's Government stated some time ago that they could not keep Admiral Burney at Scutari indefinitely, and unless there is some prospect of making progress with the Commission, they will be obliged to withdraw Admiral Burney and the whole of the British force without further delay.

You should impress upon Minister for Foreign Affairs the serious error that we take of the situation. The Commission, if on the spot, would be able to communicate with Albanian local authorities, to control and to advise them. As proposal there is now no way of communicating at all with Durazzo, and it does not seem fair to the admirals and the international force at Scutari to keep them there as spectators of mere drifting trend, which they are not allowed to prevent even in the neighbourhood of Scutari, and for which their presence can be no remedy. Secretary of State, in view we take as regards Albania, Burney and the British force.

[43420] No. 152.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. (Received September 24.)

(No. 219.)
Sir, *Athens, September 17, 1913.*

M. VENIZELOS returned yesterday from a week's holiday, which was so frequently interrupted by messages to return to Athens that he hardly could tear himself away from it, and recalled portions of yesterday.

He told me that he was going to-morrow to address a few words to the people, who do not understand the long delay in ordering the definitive annexation of the island to Greece. I think he is rather puzzled as to the question of procedure in notifying the annexation, and it seems to me that it might be a graceful act on the part of the protecting Powers, with whom Crete is still nominally *en dépôt*, if they were to take the initiative in inviting the Greek Government to move. At present it appears they are still suspected in Crete of ulterior designs on the island.

All, however, that M. Venizelos openly asked me was whether the Powers could not see their way to recognise the existing administration in Crete as a *de facto* Government and to instruct their consuls to leave off cavilling at official paper headed "Kingdom of Greece." Considering that successive "revolutionary committees" were recognised as *de facto* Governments, it does not seem too much to ask the same for an administration under which Crete has hardly been heard of for ten months.

M. Venizelos proposes now formally to hoist the Greek flag on the famous Firka point, and to arrange for elections to be held in Crete for deputies to the Greek Chamber. This, he says, was promised at the sitting in October last.

* Also to Earl Granville (No. 335), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 272), Sir R. Rodd (No. 26.), and Mr. O'Beirne (No. 605).

In the other annexed territories he does not propose to hold elections for about a year as time is required for reorganisation, and, moreover it would be necessary to hold a general election throughout the Kingdom. Before that he wishes to pass a new electoral law reducing the proportion of representatives to electors, so that the number of deputies for the enlarged Greece will not be much larger than it is at present.

I have &c.
F. ELLIOT

[43538] No. 153

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 23.*)

(No. 218.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 23, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 217 of 22nd September.

I am informed at Ministry for Foreign Affairs that strong Albanian force has attacked and captured Dibra, and is now moving in detachments towards Kroshevo. It is expected that Servian troops destined for offensive action will reach Albanian frontier in from three to five days. Servian force will then probably advance to consolidate position on strategical points within the frontier and claim desired latter-day as compensation for restoring tranquillity.

(The above repeated to admiral at Scutari.)

It appears to me serious tension between Austria and Servia can only be avoided in one of two ways, either by the powers all insisting on maintaining the frontier fixed at London sending international force numerically sufficient to protect that frontier until Legislature is organised, or by Austria consenting to meet Servian view that present frontier is inadequate.

The situation is becoming serious and demands immediate consideration.

[43549] No. 154

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 23.*)

(No. 163.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, September 23, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 340 of 22nd September to Paris was communicated. Officially German Minister for Foreign Affairs merely took note of my communication, expressed hope that Commission might soon get to work, and again asserted that delay was no fault of his.

I also read him your telegram No. 755 of 17th September to Paris. He did not know that Austria also objected to Scutari, but his attitude was precisely the same as yours, namely, that Scutari was the best meeting place, but that matter was of little importance.

[43550] No. 155.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 23.*)

(No. 164. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 23, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of to-day.

German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said in conversation that he had been expecting some such declaration from His Majesty's Government and had warned Austrian Chargé d'Affaires a week ago that it was probable. He said that Austrian delay was certainly not due to any interior motive but only to notorious slowness of Austrian Foreign Office. In fact, he knew that Austrians were anxious to withdraw as much as possible, owing to various slight cases of friction between Austrian and British officials. He believed they had now selected [group omitted] delegate], who was, however, in Egypt.

His Excellency took very black view of general situation. War had practically begun between Servia and Albania, and he fully expected that Turkey, encouraged by her success over Adrianople, would try to take back some of islands, and consequently recommence war with Greece. In both cases Bulgaria would attack, but he did not think she would participate actively.

[43544] No. 156.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 23.*)

(No. 340.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, September 23, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 340 of 22nd September to Paris.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs entirely shares your views as to the gravity of situation. He considers attitude of Austria suspicious. Will make strong representations to Servia, with a view to withdrawal of Servian troops from Albanian territory, and while reflecting in regard to state of things in Albania in general, Austrian Government have declined to defer appointment of their delegate on Commission of Control, and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs himself thinks that they desire to see more settled disorder in Albania. He does not believe that Austria actually wishes for pretext to send troops to Albania, but he suggested that she might use present opportunity to adopt more peremptory tone towards Servia in regard to various questions pending between them.

He thought it might be desirable that different Powers should speak at Vienna as to the necessity of expediting the commencement of work by Commission, and he stated that he was prepared to say something in that sense to Austrian Government. He was especially desirous of being informed of the reply which you received from Austrian Government to your present communication.

As to the Russian commissioner, he could start very shortly if desired.

[43543] No. 157

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 23.*)

(No. 479.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, September 23, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 440 of 28th August.

The French delegate on the International Commission for the delimitation of the Turco-Bulgarian frontier has been received, and there seems to be no prospect that the services of the British delegate will be required.

[43685] No. 158.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 24.*)

[By Post.]

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Paris, September 23, 1913.*

ALBANIA.

Your telegram No. 340 of 22nd September.

Minister for Foreign Affairs being occupied, Mr. Carnegie saw the Political Director to whom he gave a memorandum in the sense of your telegram. The Political Director said that he had just been discussing Albanian affairs with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and that he was therefore in a position to give the views of the French Government, which he would write down briefly in the form of a minute for the Minister for Foreign Affairs of his reply to Mr. Carnegie.

The following is the text of the minute which the Political Director invited Mr. Carnegie to copy:

"1. Le Gouvernement de la République est disposé à agir en étroit accord avec le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique dans la question de l'Albanie.

"2. Que le Gouvernement de la république, sans vouloir aucunement se dérober aux obligations internationales qu'il a souscrites devant la réunion des Ambassadeurs

à Londres, estime devoir restreindre autant que possible son action militaire en Albanie.

"3. Le Gouvernement de la république partage l'opinion du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique sur la situation inadmissible dans laquelle se trouvent les amirals et les commissaires étrangers à Scutari."

(Confidential.)

Political Director said that he felt sure though he was speaking entirely personally that the Minister for Foreign Affairs would be very glad to get quit of Albanian affairs if a convenient opportunity presented itself. He did not wish to get mixed up in another "Crete." He added that the French commissioner in Albania had lately asked for more men, as the Russian was in numerical inferiority to others. Minister for Foreign Affairs had refused this request, and had directed him to keep in background as much as possible.

[43705] No. 159

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 220.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 24, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 24th September.

Russian Chargé d'Affaires has had lengthy interview with Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday. He urged former instructions, necessity of prudence. I gathered that Russian Chargé d'Affaires advice had little effect. He says he considers Servia is now in exceptionally advantageous position. Should Austria attack her, and she asks Roumania would march into Transylvania. Bulgaria is helpless, and Greek and Servian interests in Albania are identical.

Latest about state of affairs in Albania is that Essad is actively in hand, Servians may move some more troops forward, but will pretend to be under pretext of restoring order.

(Repeated to Bucharest.)

[43706] No. 160

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 24.)

(No. —
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 24, 1913.*

FOLLOWING is repetition of telegram No. 30 from Monastir:—

"Servian troops have been attacked on the plain of Dibra by a considerable force of Malissors. Officer commanding here informs me that Albanians are led by Essad Pasha and Turkish Staff, so that they are dressed with Austrian rifles. I am informed that Servian detachment has been driven from Pishkopia. Consulate is in great anxiety as to safety of Dibra. Reinforcements have been sent from Monastir and Ochrida, and I learn that a strong force is being sent from Gostivar.

[43694] No. 161

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 1
(Telegraphic.) R *Vienna, September 24, 1913.*

ALBANIA.

I spoke to Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday evening in the sense of your telegram No. 340 of 22nd September to Paris. His Excellency expressed regret at further delay which had taken place in arriving at suitable Austrian candidate to act in the Commission of Control. This was due to persons he had hitherto selected having declined appointment. His Excellency told me he had selected one of his consuls-general—Vienna—his name he would not communicate to me for the present, this person arrived here yesterday morning and has asked for twenty-four hours to consider whether he can accept appointment. Minister for Foreign Affairs said he hoped to be in a position to-day or to-morrow to tell me that this person had accepted

[43704] No. 158*

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 219.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 24, 1913.*

FOLLOWING items of information reached me this morning from private sources:—

Arrangements are being made with Greek Government not to demobilise until situation in Albania is clear. General mobilisation is being considered here. Mobilisation of one division will probably be announced to-day. Two farther divisions are being secretly mobilised. Ten trains of infantry, with ammunition and provisions, left Belgrade yesterday. All officers on leave have received telegraphic orders to report for duty. Servian troops are to be sent to Bosnian and Bulgarian frontiers as measure of precaution in view of belief here that there is connivance between Austria and Bulgaria in Albanian uprising.

Greek troops are to be moved to Bulgarian and Albanian frontiers, arrangements are being made for their transport viâ Salonica and Monastir. Albanians are now marching on Struga, Krushevo, Djakova and Ipek. Servians have been driven back all along frontier line. There is a report, at present unconfirmed, that Djakova has fallen. Constant telegraphic communication between Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cettinjé.

Above reported to admiral at Scutari.

(Secret.)

I am informed privately that Servian Government, which apprehends the eventuality of Austrian mobilisation, is approaching the Roumanian Government with a view to the mobilisation of latter in case of mobilisation by Austria.

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the appointment, and in that case he would hurry him out to Albania without loss of time.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs said that he was quite willing to agree to the recall of the admirals and the handing over of the administration to the municipality, but that he would deprecate for the present the recall of the international force, which was necessary to prevent possible incursion of Montenegrins The functions of the troops should be limited as far as possible to the maintenance of order, pending the creation of gendarmerie, and the administration of Scutari can be left as far as possible in the hands of the local authorities.

Minister for Foreign Affairs said he was under the impression that Essad Pasha was not now so powerful as he had been a little while ago, and he hinted that the Provisional Government might find it to their advantage to use pecuniary arguments to keep him quiet.

[43695] No. 162.

Sir F Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey —(Received September 21)

(No. 145.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 24, 1913.*

SERVIA and Albania.

Count Berchtold has informed me that the Servian Minister here yesterday lodged a complaint with him with regard to Albanians along the frontier. The Servian Minister seems to have hinted that Servia might see herself compelled to restore order there by herself. Minister for Foreign Affairs replied that his consular agents at Prisrend and elsewhere had not reported to him existence of any serious movement among the Albanians, but that much discontent existed among the frontier Albanians at being prevented from visiting the market-towns of Prisrend, Dibra, and Djakova Thus was the great grievance to them, as they derived much of their material comforts from the se centres

His Excellency told me that he was convinced that Servia desired to raise trouble along the frontier with a view to intervention by her in Albania, and that, should this prove to be the case, very serious situation would arise, to which Austria-Hungary could not remain indifferent. His Excellency repeated to me what I reported in a previous telegram, that diplomatic representations to Belgrade would be ineffectual unless Russia should be sincerely desirous of restraining Servia and gave categorical instructions to her representative at Belgrade to speak in that sense.

[43708] No. 163.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey (Received September 21.)

(No. 166)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 21, 1913.*

BALKANS.

French Ambassador informs me that Servian Chargé d'Affaires made to German Minister for Foreign Affairs on 22nd September communication referred to in Belgrade telegram No. 213 of 19th September, and that German Minister for Foreign Affairs replied in regard to Bulgarian officers in Albania that their presence was difficult to prove and impossible to prevent, as Germans had found when the Italians alleged presence of German officers in Tripoli As regards action threatened by Servia, German Minister for Foreign Affairs had merely advised prudence.

[43718] No. 164.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 220.)
Sir, *Athens, September 18, 1913.*

M. PANAS, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, spoke to me again to-day about Koritsa and the southern frontier of Albania. Referring to our conversation a week ago (which I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 167 of the 11th instant, and in which he told me that the Italian Government had declared themselves "ready to discuss" the question of a Greek delegate, in an advisory

capacity, to the Delimitation Commission, on condition that an Albanian delegate was also admitted, and that the territories already definitively allotted to Albania were immediately evacuated by the Greeks. He said he had learnt that the Russian Government had been induced to take umbrage at Italy holding such language in a matter of European concern without consulting the other Powers, but that they had eventually decided to let it pass.

M. Panas, while making no objection to the presence of an Albanian delegate, again protested against the exclusion of a Greek delegate except on an impossible condition. To whom were the districts in question to be handed over? There was at present no organised Government in Albania, no force capable of preserving order. The withdrawal of the Greek troops would be the signal for reprisals by the savage Albanian bands on all the populations which have been manifesting their Greek sympathies. These bands have already been mustering in such numbers that the Greek troops, of whom in the Koritsa district there were very few, have had to be reinforced. He protested once more against the proposal to hand over a population, Greek in feeling, interests, religion, and culture, to a Mussulman State not yet existing on the most unsatisfactory ground of the international language of the treaty.

It is clear that the Greek Government hope against hope that those members of the International Commission whose instructions are not precise enough to forego conclusions may report to their Governments that the literal execution of the London decisions would result in injustice.

I received to-day a telegram from the committee of a public meeting of the people of Pargana and the surrounding districts protesting against and declaring their intention to shed the last drop of their blood to prevent the separation of Argyrocastro, Delvino, Khimara, Koritsa, &c., from the mother country.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT

[43735] No. 165.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 25.*)

(No. 253.)
Sir, *Rome, September 22, 1913.*

THE Acting Secretary-General of the Italian Foreign Office read to me this morning a telegram from the vice-consul at Durazzo reporting that Essad Pasha's attitude towards the Provisional Government at Valona was becoming more and more provocative. Essad had presented a kind of ultimatum to Ismail Kemal, demanding satisfaction on various outstanding points. The reply from Ismail Kemal had accepted all Essad's conditions except one, namely that Ismail Kemal should at once render an account of all customs dues and other moneys collected on behalf of the Provisional Government. Ismail Kemal had refused to render such accounts until a Prince and been appointed, which he would be. It is reported by the Italian vice-consul that Essad Pasha had then given Ismail Kemal the option of complying with the above demand before to-morrow Tuesday failing which he would establish an independent Government at Durazzo.

Signor Garbasso remarked to me that Essad Pasha was evidently bent on making trouble, and that it was not impossible that he would set up a separate administration at Durazzo, with himself either as Prime Minister, or even with sovereign rank, if Ismail Kemal did not satisfy his demands.

I observed that on the 17th instant the "Tribuna" had suggested that Essad's ambition was a crown. Signor Garbasso replied that an adventurer of his stamp was quite capable of such a design, whether he called himself King or Prime Minister was much the same, and evident intention was to endeavour to usurp administrative power in some form which was rather serious. He hoped however, that Ismail Kemal would be able to come to terms with him.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
HERBERT G. DERING

[43711] No. 166.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received September 25.*)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, September 24, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of telegrams dated the 24th instant, from Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney relative to Albanian affairs.

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 166.

Vice Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *September 24, 1913.*

I AM further trying to persuade the tribes to withdraw to their own territories, as the Montenegrin Government have given their assurance that they will neither advance against nor attack the Mahissori.

Enclosure 2 in No. 166.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *September 21, 1913.*

THE Servians retired without any disturbance on 19th and 20th September to the east bank of the Black Drin. I received this information to-day by an messenger from the Abcot of Merdita.

[43835] No. 167.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 25.*)

(No. 182.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 24, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 168 of 17th September.

From the same source I learn that between 17th and 21st September nearly 4,500 sanjiary disguised regular soldiers with six machine guns and a large quantity of ammunition and supplies, and tents have been sent from Baba Essad to Gramsh. The total forces at the disposal of the Provisional Government are estimated at 37,000 men, of which more than half are Turkish regulars in disguise.

The above information is fully confirmed by report just received from the acting consul-general at Salonica, who adds that Bulgarian forces, 3,000 or 4,000 strong have been driven back to the old Bulgarian frontier and that it is reported that Turkish 'volunteer' forces have occupied Melnik and Petritch, and are pushing on towards Strumnitsa.

Kavash recruits dressed in captured Bulgarian uniforms have been sent to Constantinople.

(Sent to Sofia.)

[43762] No. 168.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 27.*)

(No. 222.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 24, 1913.*

FOLLOWING is repetition of telegram No. 31 from Monastir:

"Following from officer commanding at Monastir:

"'Dibra taken 22nd September. Servian troops lost 200 or 300, and retired towards Struga. Mobilisation ordered. Austrian and Bulgarian officers reported

present. Privately reported that 1,000 Greek regular troops have been sent from Florina towards Gorcina, trouble being anticipated south of Pogradets. International Commission, excepting the French commissioner, arrived 23rd September."

[43853] No. 169.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 223.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Belgrade, September 25, 1913.*

FOLLOWING is repetition of telegram No. 37 of to-day from Uskub:

"The Albanians have taken Dibra and are near Gostivar, it is said at Mavrovo. They can count on the neutrality, if not the active aid, of the Exarchist population."

[43854] No. 170.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 224.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 25, 1913.*

My telegram No. 219 of 24th September.

Servian Government are waiting to see the attitude of the Austro-Hungarian Government before ordering general mobilisation.

I understand view of the Servian Government to be that the Austro-Hungarian Government may be forced to take action by the impossibility of accepting the *fait accompli* of Servian occupation of a portion of Albania before the Delegations and by the necessity of justifying augmentary expenditure already incurred.

(Also repeated to Vienna.)

[illegible] that note is being prepared in the Servian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for presentation to the Powers which will state that, in view of the failure of the Powers to prevent the invasion and devastation of Servian territory by Albanians, of the probability that fresh invasions will occur and of the inadequate safeguard provided by present frontier, Servian Government feels compelled to occupy certain strategic points on Albanian territory necessary for the protection of Servian frontier.

Servian Government accordingly hope that the Powers will give their sanction to such a reputable revision of eastern and north-eastern frontiers as will ensure to Servia the necessary protection.

[43855] No. 171.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 225.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 25, 1913.*

ALBANIAN uprising.

I am informed at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that Kritsevo has fallen, Monastir, Uskub and Krushevo in danger.

It is possible that the Servian Government may be giving the Albanians rope, or exaggerating the importance of the movement, in order to justify interior advance.

[43948] No. 172.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 484.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 25, 1913.*

FOLLOWING from Salonica, No. 34, of 24th September:—

"Dedeagatch consuls have sent urgent telegram to the consuls of the Great Powers here, dated 23rd September, as follows:

"'Bashi-bazouks advancing towards Dedeagatch from Gumuljina burning Bulgarian villages. Five thousand refugees in Dedeagatch situation critical.'"

(Above sent to Athens.)

[43857] No. 173.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 364.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, September 25, 1913.*

CONSTANTINOPLE telegram No. 477 of 21st September and Belgrade telegrams No. 213 of 19th September and No. 219 of 24th September.

Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs must be well aware that the Bulgarian Government could face the unpopularity of fresh mobilisation except to resist invasion, and Bulgarian war materials are used up.

Two Bulgarian divisions which I asserted have not been demobilised must on the recruits of 1910 and 1911 who had been retained pending settlement with Turkey, and for not [illegible] whom had a treaty been in force.

It may be taken that the Bulgarian Government would have referred to the Albanian troubles should have been [illegible] for a year or two. As far as [illegible] there is no proof that the present Administration would have been occupied in massacring themselves with Turkey even now in carrying out of military acts if they saw a chance of regaining any territory or of establishing an autonomous Macedonia.

(Sent to Constantinople and Belgrade.)

[43949] No. 174.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 25, 1913.*

GREEK Minister for Foreign Affairs desires to call your attention to the grave situation created by the concentration of the Turkish Government [illegible] making settlement with Greece impossible. Besides reporting the principal facts reported in Constantinople telegram No. 476 of 21st September, it stated that 5,000 Turkish troops had assembled at Castoria with guns and Tarace is occupied by Turkish troops in big force, [illegible] the command of officers from Tripoli. Two thousand Bulgarian women and children have arrived from Gumuljina at Dedeagatch where Greeks do not know what to do with them. Bashi-bazouks are burning the neighbouring villages. Greece has rendered Bulgaria and Europe great services by holding on to Dedeagatch, but cannot do so much longer. Greek Government pray that steps may be taken on this matter and also to induce Turkey to terminate negotiations for peace, of which Greece cannot endure any further prolongation in the face of Turkish preparations.

The Greek Government are very uneasy. The Prime Minister has postponed his visit to Crete. The Royal yacht leaves to-day for Trieste to bring back the King.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[43338] No. 175.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. O'Beirne.

(No. 331.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 25, 1913.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires called on the 18th instant to say that the Greek Government had urged the Russian Government to take the initiative in urging upon the Powers the Greek request to be represented on the Southern Albania Delimitation Commission. The Russian Government understood that Greece would have no objection to an Albanian officer being also attached.

The Acting Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs had replied that he quite approved the Greek proposal, and he was not aware that it was likely to be opposed by the other Powers, but he thought the initiative would come more appropriately from me.

M. de Etter was accordingly instructed to enquire in strict confidence whether I would move in the matter.

Sir L. Crowe, who received M. de Etter's reply, states that the Italian Government acting presumably with the approval of Vienna, had already notified at Athens that their assent to the admission of a Greek delegate would be conditional on the Greek Government formally accepting the decision of the conference of Ambassadors in London as to the Southern Albanian frontier, and accordingly withdrawing the Greek troops of occupation from Koritza and other places which were in any case, and beyond dispute, outside the frontiers of Albania. It was difficult not to admit that this was a reasonable view, and equally difficult to believe that the Italian and Austro-Hungarian Governments, holding that view, would give their consent to the admission of the Greek delegate on the Delimitation Commission even if balanced by an Albanian delegate without the acceptance by Greece of the decision of the Ambassadors' conference and of the consequences that naturally flow from such acceptance, that is evacuation.

There was therefore little likelihood of the Greek proposal being accepted as it stood if put forward by me. Sir E. Crowe had not consequently thought that I should agree to do so.

M. de Etter expressed his own general agreement and said he would explain the situation to M. Neratof.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[43065] No. 176.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Carnegie.

(No. 777. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 25, 1913.*

THE French Chargé d'Affaires informed Sir L. Crowe on the 17th instant that, according to a statement made by the Italian Prime Minister to the French representative at Rome, the Italian Government were pressing the candidature for the Albanian throne of Prince Louis Napoleon (grandson of Jerome, King of Westphalia). The Austro-Hungarian Government were disposed, however, to raise objections on the ground that the Prince was a retired officer of the Russian army.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[43337] No. 177.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 110.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 25, 1913.*

THE Greek Minister read to Sir E. Crowe on the 18th instant a telegram which he had received from his Government on the subject of the Greek request for representation on the Southern Albanian Delimitation Commission. The Italian Government had signified their assent on three conditions:—

1. There should also be an Albanian delegate.
2. Greece should accept the frontier as laid down at the Ambassadors'

Conference, and evacuate such places now occupied by her troops as were by the Conference assigned to Albania.

3. It should be understood that my discussions with the Greek delegate would in no case be allowed to delay beyond the 30th November the work of the Delimitator.

M. Gennadius said that his Government was ready to accept the first condition, and saw no real difficulty as regards the second, but that the third seemed to them quite unreasonable. The very object of admitting a Greek and an Albanian delegate to the Frontier Commission was to avoid interference and delay in proceeding where the line of demarcation was clear. It was prejudging the whole question to ask Greece to accept a hard and fast line beforehand.

Sir E. Crowe pointed out that this might be urged in respect to those portions of the frontier which were left to the Commissioners to decide, and were referred to the Powers as suitable. But the Ambassadors' Conference had already decided certain principal features of the line, and had laid down that wherever the line might eventually be drawn certain places and regions must be assigned to Albania. He understood the Italian Government to refer to the evacuation of those places and regions, and it seemed to him that a refusal to comply with this demand implied, however, in fact amounted to a refusal to accept the decision of the Powers. This was neither a wise nor a practical policy. To claim to revise the deliberations of the Commission which was appointed to give effect to the decisions of the Powers, and at the same time to call upon them to withdraw from positions of which they had already declared their intention to keep all control, was to ask them to do what was impossible.

Sir E. Crowe told M. Gennadius that you had already given instructions to urge upon the Greek Government at the present critical juncture the necessity of their submitting to the decision of the six Powers. His Majesty's Government were not taking the initiative in this question, but they could not dissociate themselves with the other Powers when the deliberate decision of them all was in question.

M. Gennadius urged that there was a real connection between the question of admitting a Greek delegate on the Delimitation Commission and the occupation of Koritza, but Sir E. Crowe said that he could not admit this.

The Minister finally asked with great earnestness that I would use my influence with the Powers to get the Greek delegate admitted on the sole condition that an Albanian delegate was also appointed, and he told Sir E. Crowe of the step which his Government had taken at St. Petersburgh and the reply of M. Neratof (see the enclosed copy of my despatch No. 191 of to-day to Mr. O'Beirne).

Sir E. Crowe felt that I could not take such action. It could only result in creating friction between the Powers which it might be proper, at a time when it might not be prepared, to favour the Greek view. Such friction and division would certainly not be to the interest of Greece. To provoke it in any case would probably be regarded by me as a risk which it was reluctant upon my part, particularly as President of the Ambassadors' Conference, to endeavour to avoid. To admit the risk in case we were to meet a second refusal only not on the Greek side, appeared to Sir E. Crowe out of the question.

The interest of Italy was conducted throughout in the most friendly manner.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[43872.] No. 178.

Sir I. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 296.)
Sir, *Rome, September 23, 1913.*

THE Acting Secretary-General at the Foreign Office had no doubt, in answer to my enquiry whether the Italian Government had any news of alarm respecting the unrest in Albania, that the information received was not necessarily from the north, where the Hoti and Gruda Albanian tribes, who had territory was retained for Montenegro, were declaring that they would resist such a forcible step. As I was aware, Essad Pasha also was making trouble at Durazzo for the Albanian Provisional Government, and the country generally was in a state of turmoil. The Southern Boundary Commission, he was glad to state, had reached Monastir, where they had been joined by their French colleagues, who went directly there without passing by Brindisi, and they must by now have begun their work.

I enquired if the Greek Government had made any further allusion to the question

of escort for the Southern Boundary Commission, as I had read recently in the Italian press a statement to the effect that 100 Italian and 100 Austrian soldiers would accompany their respective commissioners to the south of Albania, and that the Greek Government had protested. Signor Garbasso said that, as he had informed the Greek Chargé d'Affaires at the time when he made a protest here on the subject, and stated that the Greek army on the spot were quite ready if necessary to provide every protection for the commissioners, there had never been any intention on the part of the Italian Government to send a military guard for the Southern Albanian Commission, for they were convinced that the Greek troops, who were still in occupation of the territory where the boundary was to be drawn later, would be able to keep order and provide for the entire security of the commissioners. It was to escort the Northern Boundary Commission that the Italian and Austrian detachments had been despatched, the state of the country requiring that military protection should be afforded to the commissioners as well.

Signor Garbasso quite agreed with my observation that the disturbed state of Albania from what he had heard, proved all the more how necessary it was that the Commissioners of Control should get there at once and get to work, and that the arrangements for the preservation of order should be organised without loss of time.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador)
HERBERT G. DERING

[43858] No. 179.

Mr. Churchill to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 182.)
(Telegraphic.) Secret. *Sarajevo, September 25, 1913.*

(REPEATED Telegrams Nos. 220 of 24th, 229 of 25th September.)

Minister for Foreign Affairs does not believe that the Balkan war, having conferred [illegible] on Austria's ambitious policy in Albania, on account of Greece, and to general surprise, there will be no [illegible] interference.

Country, enquiring what Roumania's attitude would be in supposing Bulgaria, or even Austria, were to threaten, is reported to have said that Roumania would not stir, Albanian affairs not being considered sufficient.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[44127] No. 180.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 151.)
Sir,
Vienna, September 24, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a *note verbale* which has just been received from the Imperial and Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs in reply to the communications made to it under cover of your despatches Nos. 208 of the 7th and 211 of 8th September on the subject of Albania. I have already had the honour, in my telegram of yesterday's date, to report the substance of this note, which was communicated to me personally by Count Berchtold. His Excellency remarked, that the fact that the opinion of the Imperial and Royal Government would be forwarded to me without delay in the course of this day

I have, &c.
FAIRFAX L. CARTWRIGHT

Enclosure in No. 180.

Note verbale by Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(Translation.)

The Imperial and Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs did not fail to subject to a careful study the questions raised on the 8th instant on the subject of Albania, and now have the honour to bring the result of their deliberations to the knowledge of His Britannic Majesty's Embassy.

[44151] No. 179*

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 487. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 26, 1913.*

SIR R. RODD'S despatch No. 229 Confidential of the 2nd September.

I learn that the ex-Minister of Finance, Javid Bey, has stated in conversation with a private individual that no arrangement has been come to with Italy under which Turkey receives back the islands at present in Italian occupation, but subsequently retrocedes all or some of them.

I also learn from a well-informed source that eight Turkish officers, five from the infantry and three from the artillery, have started, on Enver Bey's orders, for Cyrenaica *viâ* Egypt, where they have already arrived.

With regard to the information which has reached the Cabinet of St. James concerning disturbances in Albania, the Imperial and Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs desire above all to point out that in the interior of Albania—wherever the foreign troops have been withdrawn tranquillity prevails, and that the isolated incidents, to which the above information no doubt refers, took place only on the frontier territory.

The causes for these incidents are to be found on the one hand in the deplorable fact that, at the Ambassadors conference in London, some purely Albanian territories, such as Hoti Grnda and Djakova, contrary to the proposals of the Imperial and Royal Government, were separated from their mother country, and, on the other hand, in the fact that the evacuation of Albania by Servian troops has not yet been completed, and that the Albanian population remains consequently in a state of unrest. The complete execution at last, therefore, of the resolution of the London Conference with regard to the evacuation of Albania by the Servian Government appears to be the most urgent of the measures now under consideration. In addition to this, very primitive conditions exist in the frontier districts. The level of culture of the Catholic and Mahommedan Albanians is far below that of the other Albanians. This misfortune, however, cannot be remedied by one measure or another, but only through continued co-operation of the future Albanian Government with the International Control Commission over a long term of years.

The Imperial and Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs is further of opinion that the immediate assumption by the gendarmerie of their functions in the form decided on by the London Conference is essential, as the creation of such a service of security constitutes the most favorable assumption under which the native officials appointed by the Commission of Control should thoroughly fulfil their duties. The Imperial and Royal Government would therefore be prepared, if the other Governments agree to instruct their Ministers at The Hague to urge upon the Dutch Government the necessity of appointing the necessary instructors.

With regard to the question of the time and manner of withdrawing the international detachments from Scutari, the Imperial and Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs begs to submit their present opinion as follows:

It is not impossible that Montenegro, who has by no means abandoned her aspirations to Scutari, will make another attack upon the town, which would undoubtedly lead to most undesirable complications. The international detachments would hardly suffice with their present numbers to resist a Montenegrin attack, but it is not likely that Montenegro would venture to embark on a battle against the troops of the Great Powers. For entrust the protection of Scutari to the Albanian gendarmerie against a Montenegrin attack would require, in the opinion of military experts, that this force should consist of at least 20,000 men, which seems impossible to carry out as the Government is being raised [illegible] all for preserving order in the interior. As long however as Scutari were only protected by Albanian gendarmerie of somewhat insufficient strength, a Montenegrin attack would appear very possible, and it is to be feared would not [illegible] be successful if the whole of the Scutari question would again be involved. Under these circumstances the Imperial and Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs considers it indispensable that the international detachments should remain at Scutari until

1. The future of Albania has been finally and definitely settled, and the administration of the country has been completely set up, and

2. The Albanian Government is in a position to look after the safety of the frontiers against external attacks by the organization of the military forces at its disposal.

The fact of leaving the international detachments in Scutari for the present will facilitate the eventual change of the above mentioned Council of Admirals.

These functions, in the opinion of the Imperial and Royal Government, so far as they are of a purely military nature, should be transferred to the commanders of the detachments under the presidency of the senior in military rank, while the administrative duties hitherto carried out by the admirals should fall to the Provisional Government at Vallona. The municipality installed by the latter at Vallona would naturally be under the Commission of Control, and the same would also apply to Scutari.

Lastly, with regard to the meeting of the Commissioners of Control, the appointment of the Austro-Hungarian member is to be made immediately, and he would be sent off as soon as the most urgent of the measures mentioned above have been taken and an agreement has been come to concerning the place where the Commissioners are to hold their sittings. If the Imperial and Royal Government adhere to their view that the Commission should assemble at Vallona, they are of opinion that this view

harmonise with the resolutions of the London Conference, which assign to the Commission the duty of watching over the work of the "autorités indigènes existantes" whose chief seat for the purpose will be at Valona. This does not prevent the Commission from forming later a resolution with regard to their future place of assembly.

Vienna, September 24, 1913.

[44094] No. 181.

Treasury to Foreign Office. (*Received September 27.*)

Sir, *Treasury, September 26, 1913.*

I HAVE laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury Sir E. Crowe's letter of the 19th instant, in which Secretary Sir E. Grey asks for their observations upon the proposal that a loan of £1,200,000 should be made to the Montenegrin Government under the guarantee of the six Powers.

My Lords observe that His Majesty's Government have given their consent in principle to this proposal, subject to the assent of Parliament.

The questions, therefore, to which it appears desirable that my Lords should address themselves are:

1. What primary security Montenegro can offer for the proposed loan;
2. How such primary security can be made effective; and
3. What form the proposed guarantee should take with a view to using the credit of the guaranteeing Powers to the best advantage.

As regards the first two questions, it is for the Powers to consider whether the economic crisis of Montenegro at the present time is such that she is in a position to give effective security for the punctual discharge of the interest and principal of the proposed loan, and, if so, whether, as a matter of policy, the arrangements necessary to provide such effective security can be imposed upon her.

If these questions are answered in the affirmative, my Lords are of opinion that some such machinery as is contemplated in the memorandum of the Austro-Hungarian Minister would be essential. Such machinery should be effective, not only for the control of the expenditure of the loan, but also of the revenues which would have to be hypothecated to its service.

If on the other hand they are answered in the negative, my Lords doubt whether any form of security which might be agreed to obtain an enforceable primary security would give results either in respect of the reception of the loan by investors or the ultimate repayment of the guarantees which would, in any case, be called upon to operate. My Lords would suggest that in that case the Powers should content themselves with the undertaking of the Montenegrin Government to regulate the payment of interest and ultimate redemption. At most, it would be desirable to exercise over the expenditure out of the loan such right to be secured by arranging that the money should only be paid over to Montenegro by instalments.

As regards the form of the proposed guarantee, the proposal appears to be that each of the guaranteeing Powers should make itself responsible for one-sixth of the loan.

Such an arrangement would no doubt be the simplest and most convenient if the guarantee can be arranged for privately with a bank or banks, or with individual capitalists, but if the proposal is that the loan shall be offered to public subscription, it would probably be found to be quite unsuitable, and a joint and several guarantee by the Six Powers of the whole loan might be found to be necessary, the Powers undertaking, of course, between themselves to divide the liability.

As an alternative to the public issue of a guaranteed loan, the provision of one-sixth of the capital by each of the Powers upon its own credit, the Powers themselves becoming the lenders to Montenegro, is, Sir E. Grey thinks, deserving of consideration.

It will of course be necessary that the principal of the loan should be guaranteed as well as the interest. This could best be effected by requiring Montenegro to provide a sinking fund calculated to redeem the loan within a reasonable period—say thirty years—and by the Powers guaranteeing the payment of the sinking fund instalments.

My Lords trust that these general observations may be of some assistance towards

the formulation of substantive proposals, the precise form of which must of course, depend to a large extent on the considerations of policy above referred to. When such proposals have been formulated in consultation with the other Powers concerned they will be happy to advise further on the matter.

I am, &c.
JOHN BRADBURY.

[43992] No. 182.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 27.*)

[By Post.]

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinje, September 27, 1913.*

COMMISSIONER of Control for Albania.

FROM Government entirely share views expressed in your telegram No. 330 of 17th September.

[44141] No. 183.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 27.*)

(No. 212.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, September 27, 1913.*

SERVIA and Albania.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed Belgrade that Servia intends to make a second occupation of Albania for which purpose Servian troops will pass frontier. He understands that after the operations against the Albanian forces have been carried out Servia will continue to hold some positions within Albania. Russian Government think appreciates good reasons which they have for proposed actions. At the same time he has recommended them to proceed with the same prudence that they have shown hitherto.

He is aware that Servia's action is likely to give rise to suggestions from Austrian Government that Powers should consider whether it is not just time to take precautionary measures against the recurrence of recent incidents.

[44139] No. 184.

Mr. Lorimer to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 27.*)

(No. 168.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Rome, September 27, 1913.*

GREEK Legation have now published official contradiction of press statement emanating from Durazzo that delegation of Albanian notables were charged by the Government of Epirus to propose to the Provisional Government at Valona the union of Albania with Greece in connexion with Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Legation states that the deputation proceeded on its own initiative and unprovided with Greek authorities to Valona to express complete satisfaction with Greek administration as exercised, and to invite attention of Provisional Government to community of interests between Greece and Albania, and that Governor General of Epirus had no connection with the action of deputation.

[44382] No. 185.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Carnegie. *

(No. 340.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, September 27, 1913.*

RUSSIAN Government propose:

1. That the Commissioner of Control should proceed to Albania within the next fortnight and relieve the admirals of their duties at Scutari;

* Also to Mr. Dering (No. 277), Earl Granville (No. 341), and Sir F. Cartwright (No. 278).

2 That in view of the objections raised by certain Powers against Scutari as meeting-place, the Commission should assemble at Valona

3 That the Commission should be charged with the elaboration of a programme of proceedings or further matters after consulting the necessary enquiries on the spot

Inform Government to which you are accredited that His Majesty's Government are quite ready to fall in with these proposals, and hope they will be generally acceptable.

[44796] No. 186.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr Carnegie

(No. 595.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 27, 1913*

I SAW M Cattaro to-day

He said that he had not any special message, but in the course of conversation he asked what I proposed to do about the international contingents in Scutari.

I said that my feeling was that if the Commission of Control desired the international contingents of Scutari, Legondicura could be organised, we should be prepared to let the British contingent remain, even after Admiral Burney went home, if the Austrian Government desired that the Commission of Control and contingents should remain. We should welcome the British contingent with Admiral Burney [illegible] the Austrians have adopted the appointment of a Commission of Control, and are prepared to [illegible] end of the admirals or the international force outside Scutari itself so that they could have no excuse to remain in the vilayet of Albania. If this continued it would be a farce and an anomaly to keep Admiral Burney in the British force there. I had just heard, however, that the Austrians have now [illegible] their concurrence of the immediate withdrawal of Control

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[44596] No. 187.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot

(No. 113.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 27, 1913.*

THE King of Greece called at the Foreign Office to-day and spoke to me with regard to the Greek relations with Turkey. His whole apprehension of trouble arose from Austrian designs upon the Egean islands, especially Mytilene and Chios. There was news that the Turks were preparing an expedition. The trouble arose from the entire ignorance of the Powers with regard to settling the question of the islands. I told him so.

As I said, we had not known what prospect there was of the Powers settling it, but I observed that the latest decision of the Powers had been that the Egean islands were to go to Greece, with the exception of Tenedos and Imbros, and also with the exception of islands on the occupation of Italy as to the final destiny of which the Powers had reserved their decision. I could not say that the Powers were likely to take any active steps in the way of intervention: the concert of Europe had throughout shown great reluctance to intervene by force in anything.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[44597] No. 188.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot

(No. 114.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 27, 1913*

IN the course of conversation with the King of Greece to-day, he spoke about the southern Albanian frontier, and assured me that Koritza was Greek. He also spoke of the predisposition against Greece of the Austrian and Italian representatives on the Frontier Commission, especially the Austrian

I said that the decision come to by the Powers on the southern Albanian frontier represented the minimum that Austria and Italy would accept. It was much less than they had originally demanded, and it would be very unwise for Greece to get into difficulties with Austria and Italy about it.

The King said that the same advice had been given to him in Berlin, but he and his Government were in a very difficult position, for the people belonging to Koritza and the coast, who were really Greek, came and pleaded their claims to be included in Greek territory

I said that they surely ought to accept the reply that Greece could not oppose herself to the decision of all the Powers, and it ought to be the more easy for Greece to accept the situation as she had gained so much more than she had expected elsewhere

The King replied that this might appear easier for the Greek Government than it really was especially if the question of the Egean islands turned out not to be settled

I am &c.
E. GREY

[44155] No. 189.

Major Doughty-Wylie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 28.

(No. 6)
(Telegraphic) *Monastir, September 27, 1913*

I AM informed that Servian authorities have evacuated Prigrovcla, Struga, Ochrida, and Kirchevo. Local Bulgarian population sympathises with Albanians. I am informed that Albanian column from Ymansan is proceeding towards Corcha, to which further Greek reinforcements are reported to be proceeding.

[44146] No. 190.

Mr Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 28.)

(No 226.)
(Telegraphic) *Belgrade, September 28, 1913.*

FOLLOWING from His Majesty's representative at Uskub, No. 38, of 28th September

"Last night Albanians took Gostivar. Strenuous efforts are being made to defend Kalkandelen, where is said to be full of wounded. Inhabitants have left town.

"Above was learned indirectly from a man who was allowed to leave under exceptional circumstances, and who was pledged to secrecy

"Albanians are said to have taken Dyakova, but to have evacuated it to reinforce attack on Prisrend."

[44147] No. 191

Mr Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 228.)
(Telegraphic) *Belgrade, September 28, 1913.*

MONASTIR telegram of 27th September

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs told Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires last night that it was untrue that Struga and Ochrida had been evacuated. His Excellency said that Servian troops were already commencing the offensive against Albanians, and he expected to receive satisfactory news in a day or two.

[44148 No. 192

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 229. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 28, 1913.*

ACTING Minister for Foreign Affairs told Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires that Minister of War had received information to the effect that Bulgarian reservists now in Austria had been called back, and that cases of ammunition were being collected in Sletovo district, where it was planned to incite population to declare for Bulgaria.

In consequence Drina division was being mobilised, and would be sent to Ovche Polche, where it would take up a purely defensive position.

Persistent rumours here of Bulgarian mobilisation.

(Repeated to Sofia.)

[44149] No. 193.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 230.
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 28, 1913.*

MY Italian colleague has just seen Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs for the purpose of communicating telegram, copy of instructions from his Government.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs gave him assurances that Servian action was purely defensive, in spite of the Servian retreat with great prudence and that there was no intention of occupying Albanian territory or disregarding decision of Powers.

The remarkable change of tone may in the opinion of my Italian colleague, be attributed to two causes: (1) To friendly advice of Prime Minister who has now been apprised fully of situation and who counsels moderation; (2) to strong pressure by French banks who may have threatened refusal of payment of further instalments of 1913 loan (despatch No. 157), and (3) to Bulgarian menace on frontier.

Troops are to be withdrawn as Servian Government still hopeful to control military party and keep troops from following Albanian troops across frontier into Old Servia.

[44157] No. 194.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, September 28, 1913.*

TWENTY thousand Servian troops began on 25th September to pass from Servia through Salonica to Monastir.

(Sent to Athens and Constantinople.)

[44369 No. 195.

Note communicated by Servian Legation, September 29, 1913.

D'APRÈS les renseignements de son Gouvernement, la Légation Royale de Serbie a l'honneur d'informer le Ministère Royal pour les Affaires Étrangères que les Albanais ont attaqué à plusieurs reprises sur toute sa longueur la frontière serbe et que le Gouvernement serbe avait déjà à plusieurs reprises exprimé par les Grandes Puissances son désir de voir ordonner aux troupes Royales de se retirer de toutes les positions stratégiques qu'elles avaient occupées depuis août 1912.

Les Albanais ont franchi la frontière et ont pénétré, en masses, jusqu'à la ville de Débar (Dibra), qu'ils assiègent maintenant.

En conséquence, le Gouvernement Royal s'est vu forcé de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires, pour défendre son territoire.

En même temps le Gouvernement serbe proteste énergiquement contre la présence des officiers anglais en Albanie, et la Légation Royale, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, a l'honneur de solliciter la puissante et éclairée influence du Gouvernement Royal britannique, pour que ces officiers bulgares quittent immédiatement le territoire albanais, dans l'intérêt de l'Albanie et de la Serbie aussi bien que dans celui de la paix générale.

Légation Royale de Serbie, Londres,
le 2 septembre, 1913.

[44234] No. 196.

Mr. C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 104.)
Sir, *Sinaia, September 24, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Emperor of Austria has conferred upon the Crown Princess of Roumania the Grand Cross of the Order of Elisabeth in recognition of the activity displayed by her Royal Highness in tending the cholera-stricken soldiers. In the bestowal of so high a distinction must be seen not only a personal token of esteem on the part of the Emperor, but also a political motive calculated to recommend to favourable consideration the services of Austria-Hungary. The Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, in a moment of effusion, went so far as to say that it was had great urged the grant of the distinction and its being given without delay so that Austria, in being the first to honour the Crown Princess, might reap some benefit from it.

In connexion with the Minister for Foreign Affairs's last week's allusion to the political meaning to be given to the award of the Order, His Excellency was very cautious in his reply and remarked sagely, "Nous ferons reconnaître ce qui est." But two weeks have now elapsed, and nothing has appeared in the press or the subject, so that there are grounds for the fact and praises of the Princess.

On the other hand all the press here quote an article recently published in the Russian Novoe Vremya on the subject of the Bulgarian war-gratuity by the Russian authorities to Roumanian reservists. Last week I had occasion to refer to the caustic language which the writer used towards the Hungarian and German Ministers, who were said to have opposed "that which ought to have been done long ago, but rarely or never not for the Roumanian armies in the kingdom."

Extracts from the same publication from the article in the Viennese Nationalist Press, the point of the sarcasm being where it accuses Roumania of perfidy, ingratitude, and worse, all this when they, on their part, refer to "Francis Joseph as the venerable sovereign of Roumania, because she has secured the handsome morsel of Silistria which fell to her share. But the press and politicians here [illegible] with capture of Adrianople, the Bulgarian fleet, Thracian fortresses, Hungarian subjects, are not set down in accordance with their wishes."

Such an article as the latter is scarcely calculated to dispel the want of sympathy felt towards the Government across the Carpathians, and it will take a great deal more to consolidate the bestowal of an Imperial order upon a member of the Roumanian Royal Family.

I have, &c.
CHARLES BARCLAY

[44218, No. 197

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 173.)
Sir, *Sofia, September 27, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that relations between this country and Roumania have now been restored to the ordinary peace footing.

After the signature of the Treaty of Bucharest, one of the Bulgarian Delegates, M. Simon Radeff, remained at the Roumanian capital as unofficial Bulgarian representative for the transaction of current business. The Roumanian evacuation of Bulgaria was not completed until the 1st September owing to the outbreak of cholera among the troops, a circumstance which in turn rendered less easy the carrying out of the Bulgarian claims for which Roumania is bringing to please still [illegible] occupation had to be economised, and of the Balkans must stand out of their proper centres. In dealing with this question, and with the more trifling one of the Bulgarian claims for Roumanian requisitions or exactions, M. Radeff appears to have gained the esteem and

liking of the Roumanian authorities for his subsequent appointment as Minister at Bucharest was well received by the organs of public opinion there. He is a comparatively young man of Macedonian extraction who has never before held an official position, but has acquired some social distinction in literature and journalism. He has already presented his credentials.

The Roumanian Government, on their part, have received the *agrément* of M. Derussi, Interim-Consul-General at Bucharest, as Minister at Sofia; and pending his arrival a Secretary of Legation has been sent here to act as Chargé d'Affaires, so that diplomatic relations with both Directions are now restored.

The last feature of the new frontier as proceeding smoothly is that it has been agreed that the Bulgarian claims for requisitions, &c., shall be submitted to a mixed commission.

Bulgarian resentment of recent humiliations will no doubt rankle, and will become actually the more acute from the knowledge of cases of robbery and outrage which are only now beginning to be known. It is far too early to attempt any prediction of the future relations between the two countries. For the present Bulgarian statesmen are willing to kiss the hand they cannot cut off, and Austrian interests breathe more freely generally, while the possibility even of an all round is privately canvassed. This seems for the present unlikely to be realised for want of any common understanding against whom it should be directed.

I have, &c.
W. O'REILLY

(44235 No. 98

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 29.*)

No. 67.)
Sir, *Salonica, September 25, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in view of events on the Albanian frontier, I asked His Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs this afternoon what were his impressions on the situation. His Excellency replied that he did not think it to be worse than a third war in his opinion. The Albanians would easily be crushed by Servia, Bulgaria could look after herself, Austria would not interfere for fear of provoking a general outbreak of hostilities, her position towards Germany was delicate one, Germany supporting Greece, and Greece being at one with Servia over the Albanian question.

I then asked M. Maximos what Roumania's attitude would be supposing Bulgaria, Greece, and Servia were to combine against Servia. He said that Bulgaria was the friend of long standing, but if she were to become too aggressive Roumania would not stand by with folded arms. Austrian affairs were not Roumania's concern. Roumania wished for peace. His Excellency does not believe in an Austro-Bulgarian military agreement.

I have, &c.
COLVILLE BARCLAY

(44170. No. 99

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 29.*)

(No. 813.)
Sir, *Constantinople, September 25, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from the Acting British Consul-General at Salonica regarding the Moslem national movement at Xanthi and Gumurjina.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure in No. 199.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Mr. Marling.

(No. 100. Confidential.)
Sir, *Salonica, September 18, 1913.*

MR. J. OVADIA, Xanthi representative of N. Mayer and Co., who for the last sixteen years has resided in that town, has arrived here direct from Xanthi, which he left on the 15th September.

He gives an interesting account, which I resume below, of the history of the last few months in Xanthi.

According to him, Greek troops arrived in Xanthi on the 27th July, 1913, putting an end for Greeks and Turks, to a regime of oppression which had weighed on them for seven or eight months and had alienated the sympathies of all.

They remained in Xanthi until the 2nd August, at which date they left, after negotiations with the Bulgarians who had begun on the 23rd August.

Between the 3rd August and the 26th August the Bulgarians, who had come to take over the town in a friendly manner, began to show their true colours. On the 8th or 9th of the Turks of Xanthi, following the example of the Greek inhabitants, had already crossed into Greek Macedonia.

In the evening of the 1st September the Bulgarians, who during their stay had pillaged over 400 houses and shops, but had respected foreigners and foreign goods, left the town, a few hours afterwards a band of 300 Turks, armed and ready, entered the town. They were not in military dress, but were well armed, and were under the leadership of a chief boy, Hadji Sali, who on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday are Turkish chiefs at first claimed having gained a fight in Drama, but after two days declared that they were no longer masters of the Turkish army, having resigned themselves at the head of a national movement to expel the Bulgarians.

Most of these "irregulars" under their orders were regularised the Turkish army who had deserted from the ranks of the Macedonian to "volunteer" for the Turkish cause across the river.

Next day the Moslem population were called, at the prayers and [illegible] to rally round, so it is said, Ismail Hakki Bey, who was invited to become governor. He accepted, and later in the day the surrender of Bulgarian officers, and was [illegible] the Bulgarians.

The irregulars then left the town, saying all Bulgarians should be out of the town by 8 o'clock on the following morning, and that no one was to leave the town after that hour. Bulgarians were allowed to take away from 20 to 30 kilos through the town, but were not allowed to take out of Xanthi by the railway station, which is to the west of Xanthi, in Bulgarian hands (north of the town), any Xanthi people or Xanthi property.

The object of the "volunteers" seems to be to roll the Bulgarians up and with the assistance of the gendarmerie and the police, all Bulgarians were to be interned in Xanthi, to be kept together as hostages. The number of "volunteers" is constantly increased by arrivals from the east bank of the Mesta. When it has crossed the river, will include regulars, and then the "volunteers" only will probably continue to resist the fresh occupation of Bulgarian troops.

The number of "volunteers" now across the Mesta is estimated at 20,000.

Between Xanthi and the Bulgarian front are the "volunteers" themselves, total some 4,000 men, and these have since been driving back the Bulgarians forces of 3,000 to 4,000 men to the frontier. The native population in Drama, Orfani and Nevrocop, Cheik Hassan, and, under the guidance of Turkish officers, is prepared to follow the example of the "army" of Xanthi.

Pushing on further to the west detachments of Turkish "volunteers" are now reported to have occupied Mount Kara and Petritch, and are pushing on towards Strumitza. Cavalry accompany the Turkish forces, as is the cavalry which is reported to have occupied Petritch.

The "army" of Gumulgina, composed of "volunteers" and natives, has also marched into the mountains north of the town to hunt down Bulgarian troops.

The aim of the Moslem population, helped by the "volunteers" and commanded by Turkish officers, is to resist at all costs and to fight to the death against Bulgarian reoccupation of the country.

The Moslems have suffered so much at the hands of the Bulgarians that, as they

say, they were forced to do with respect to Austrian and Bulgarian rule and be massacred.

Natives and 'volunteers' will take this as the result of the Constantinople negotiations, and, even before the Marsa is encumbered with the population "of Constantinople sells them," of crossing the Marsa becoming 'volunteers,' and throwing in their lot with the native Moslem population.

The question of commissariat seems to have been solved by the gathering in of a splendid harvest, sufficient to sustain an army for one or two years.

In these circumstances it appears probable that even if Turco-Bulgarian affairs are arranged at Constantinople, the resistance of the native population, assisted by the "volunteers" and their determination to resist the Bulgarian reoccupation will entail fresh fighting, and will retard the re-establishment of peace and tranquillity in the Balkans.

(Copies sent to Athens and Sophia.)

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN

[44249] No. 200

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey. (Received September 30.)

(No. 178. Very Confidential.)

Sir, *Belgrade, September 27, 1913.*

SINCE writing my despatches Nos. 154 and 162 to the 9th and 12th instant respectively, with which was the last I had the honour to address to you on the subject of Albanian events, have been well informed with regard to what I strongly suspect have been endeavours to keep my military attaché and myself under observation, for which purpose two individuals were told off to dog our footsteps.

All efforts to prove a connection between the specific outrages which have been perpetrated in Albania and the Servian military have failed, but the closest approximation to such connection is to be found in the withdrawal from the Albanian frontier and the Servian garrisons, and I will therefore briefly trace these very contrasting movements.

According to the Austrian version the Servians have deliberately massacred in Albania, during the last few weeks, (1) over 20,000 men, women and children, (2) by massacring and terrorizing numerous Albanians within Servian frontier lines, and (3) by closing the frontier with the object of starving out Albanian villages, including Durazzo, still Albanian, and Scutari.

The Servian answer to the above charges is the following:—

1. That it was impossible to entrust Servian troops with Albania and to possess certain strategic positions, pending the delimitation of the frontier, in order to protect Servian territory from attacks on the part of the Albanians, and that the presence of irregular bands from within Albania itself. The proof of this, the Servians say, is the fact that Austrian troops were withdrawn across the Black Drin, in accordance with the representations of the Powers, those attacks took place.

2. That the Albanians within Servian territory were deliberately incited to rebel by the Turks from across the frontier, by certain foreign instigation, and that repressive and cautionary measures became necessary, and

3. That one of these precautionary measures naturally took the form of closing the frontier.

A correspondent from Constantinople sums up the conclusion which I indicated in my despatch No. 159 of the 21st September that while Servia has been dubitatively endeavouring to work up a situation which she calculates may assist her to obtain the frontier she desires, which she feels a necessity for her, Austrian influence has at the same time been at work to stir up the Albanians against Servia, partly with a view to forcing the hands of Albania and partly with a view to creating for her difficulties on her Albanian frontier and generally impeding her work of consolidation. This appears to be supported by the fact that Mannlicher rifles of modern type have been recently taken in considerable quantities from the Albanians. Further I am informed at the Ministry of War that the organized and concerted attacks made by the Albanians a few days ago and skilfully directed towards those points of the frontier where Servian detachments were the weakest, indicates that they must have been directed by trained

foreign officers, who are indeed supposed to be Austrian and Bulgarian. I am privately informed that a price has been recently set on the heads of any Austrian and Bulgarian officers who may be taken prisoners, the leaving behind of irrefutable proof of Austrian and Bulgarian connivance at Albanian outrages.

The Servians evidently feel themselves gaining ground in their declaratory assertions of their Albanian policy. They are very strong now, and, in fact, are serving over a sufficiently powerful force to cope with all Albanians, drive them back across the frontier and retake all ground lost to the Malissori, the strategic positions on the watershed between the Black Drin and the Fani, Lake Ochrida and the south-east and north-west of Orosh. Under Prince Arnulf, before the present war, Servia seems to have secured a reasonably safe position elsewhere. She has also had the honour to obtain, vide my telegram No. 215 of the 14th September, open and guarantees from Roumania against Bulgaria, though it is doubtful how far Roumania would be prepared to give effect to such guarantee if ever the Servian adventure in Albania, in which country Roumania has no direct interest, under Albanian policy she has a well-hearted ally in Greece, with whom she became dangerously intimate as to future spheres of influence in Albania, as reported in my despatch No. 160. Confidential, of the 14th September. She is evidently taking a small but permanent diversion in the north and I have reason to believe that the two countries have in fact come to a mutual arrangement as to their future Albanian frontiers, as hinted at in my telegram No. 214 of the 21st instant. Further Servia appears to believe that, should she be attacked by Austria, Roumania would not remain quiet but would invade Transylvania, though how far this belief is justified I have no means of knowing. M. Spalaikovitch told me privately the day before yesterday that he had every reason to believe that Roumania's policy towards Austria was entirely changed as a result of recent events in the Near East. Every Servian now counts rightly or wrongly on the friendship of the Czar, Roumania and Slavs in the event of war with Austria, and the Servian Russophil party points out that Russia finally pulled Servia out of the fire when she had got badly burnt.

I repeat the Powers, Servia feels that she is strong, are anxious of preserving the Balkan equilibrium, are strongly opposed to Austrian aggression, that she is perfectly justified in disregarding the decisions of the Ambassadors' Conference, that she does not gain the decisions irrevocable, and she believes that to begin proof is being now provided that the frontier, fixed at last Christmas, from an impossible one. She is in fact taking the bull by the horns, and the Servian army, co-related with Albania, is very likely to overawe and hold in danger of rescue Ipek and the Servian army to the Metchia pass, in the direction of Scutari.

As reported in my telegram No. 224 of to-day's date, I hear that the Servian Government is urging further upon the Powers the view of the future of the latter to prevent the invasion and devastation of Servian territory by Albanians, of the extreme probability that these attacks will continue, in view of the inadequacy of the forces raised at London to prevent a proper safeguard against such attacks by Servia. Government feels compelled to occupy permanently those strategic points in Albanian territory which alone guarantee peace and security to Servian subjects. The Powers will then probably be asked to sanction an equitable revision of the eastern and north-eastern frontiers of Albania. Peace will then apparently depend on the attitude of Vienna. I believe the Servian view to be that the Austrian Government may possibly find itself forced to take action in view of the impossibility of defending a further diplomatic defeat before the Delegations, at the necessity of justifying the enormous military expenditure already incurred.

Faced with the contingency of Austrian action, the Servian Government is now considering the question of general mobilisation. Orders have already been issued for the mobilisation of the 1st Morava Division and I am told that the 2nd and 3rd Divisions are being mobilised. An official announcement to-day itself is saying that the reserves have been called out for service with the field troops, and that for the defence of Servia territory against the Albanians the active army will be employed. Finally, a movement of troops is taking place towards both the Bulgarian and Bulgarian frontiers.

(Copy sent to Vienna.)

I have &c.
DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE

[44195] No. 201

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 372. Confidential.)

Sir, *Berlin, September 26, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report in my telegram No. 371, Confidential, of the 25th instant, that I was apprised of the decision of His Majesty's Government to withdraw shortly the British and French troops from Scutari that Herr von Jagow remarked to me in conversation that he supposed it to be known that the Austrian Government were very anxious for the withdrawal of the naval forces at the earliest possible moment, partly because of the bad effect produced by the difference between the Austrian and British Admiral. Baron Burian had expressed himself in the same sense to Count Berchtold, and Herr von Jagow said that the Austrian Government had been informed that the Austrian Government had been informed that the Austrian Government had been informed

During this conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs the Russian Minister read to him his Excellency a telegram which he received from St. Petersburgh yesterday morning repeating the communication made by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in London, stating that he had spoken to you on the subject of the payment of the expenses of the journey of inspection in Albania to be undertaken by a Dutch senior officer and reporting your assurance as to the guarantee of the money.

M. Sweerts-Sporck, who is a Catholic himself, said that he believed the French Chargé d'Affaires here was a very ardent Catholic, and that he thought that M. Dervencourt's unwillingness to make any communication, if it could be avoided, was purely personal. The French Minister has been willing to join his Russian and British colleagues even without instructions from Paris, but the Chargé d'Affaires pretended that his instructions were too vague, and would not express the views of his Government unless he was obliged to do so.

I have, &c.
ALAN JOHNSTONE.

[44321] No. 204

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 29.*)

(No. 168.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Rome, September 28, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 247 of 27th September to Paris.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has communicated proposals of the Russian Government respecting the Commission of Control, and he would have liked to consult Austro-Hungarian Government, and would reply as soon as possible. Meanwhile he quite agreed that the Commission should proceed as soon as possible to Albania, and that Vallona should be the meeting-place, though he considers that they would have to go to Scutari for a while later. But his reference to the latter part of the first Russian communication pointed out that the functions of the Commission and the colonels would overlap. In consequence it would therefore not be possible for the Commission to take over duties of the latter while it was there, but rather supersede them. He considers question of these colonels very important, and in distressful event of Albania requiring the Italian forces as Scutari, it might be longer than hoped, but in short time could withdraw if not possible. The presence of the International force would be very restraining influence on Montenegro, Servia, and Greece. It also assisted in merely keeping the rebellious elements between Austria and Montenegro, but Austria and Servia. He trusted mostly that His Majesty's Government would not persist in their desire to withdraw the British contingent without delay, fearing some hitch would cause it to get only as far as Malta, which would be a most unfortunate thing, having far-reaching effects.

His Excellency agreed that the Commission would have to elaborate a programme after making enquiries on the spot, and Progetto that there should have been much delay in their departure.

I confirmed that the British commissioner would start for Vallona on 30th September.

[44380] No. 205.

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 29.*)

(No. 170. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 28, 1913.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs told me to-day after he had seen the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires that the Austro-Hungarian Government was growing increasingly restless at Servian activity on the Albanian frontier, and that he was doing all he could to counsel patience. Austria was suspicious of Montenegro as well as of Servia. His Excellency read me a telegram from the Italian representative at Belgrade, which he said had been communicated to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, feeling it would only increase Austrian apprehensions.

The Italian Chargé d'Affaires reported that the Servian Secretary-General at the Foreign Office had replied, when the Italian Government's counsels of moderation were

communicated to Belgrade, that Servia was not afraid of Austria, as she knew, he said, that she had the support of Russia.

The said Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, he knew to be sincere, and he was glad the Italian representative at Belgrade should know that Signor Giolitti was in power at this moment.

He hoped that the Powers would all give serious advice for moderation at Belgrade.

[44421] No. 206.

Mr. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 171. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 28, 1913.*

I ASKED Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day for news about the Greco-Turkish negotiations. His Excellency said that they appeared to be proceeding a crisis, and that no exception unless the Greek Government, which, including M. Venizelos, appeared to be wholly uncompromising in their attitude, made some concession to Turkey there was grave danger of another rupture between the two countries, in which case he thought that Turkey would endeavour to retake Salonica. He added, however, that when England, the King of Greece, who was now ill, to consider himself as born general would have received counsels of moderation from you. He expressed the hope that all the Powers would exercise a moderating influence at Athens, but I did not gather that this was a definite proposal for communication to you.

[44431] No. 207.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 29.*)

(No. 189.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, September 28, 1913.*

TURCO-BULGARIAN negotiations.

An official communiqué expresses satisfaction that agreement has been reached on all points, and that treaty is to be signed to-morrow. The treaty is to come into force [illegible] except as regards reoccupation by Bulgaria of Thrace west of the Maritza which is not to take place for two months.

Sent to Sofia.

[44439] No. 208.

Mr. Waugh to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 190.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, September 29, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 482 of 24th September.

Government organs are advocating war with Greece and announce that the Gumuldjina forces have attacked Dedeagatch.

(Sent to Athens.)

[44430] No. 209.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 231.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 29, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 230 of 28th September.

In conversation last night the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs evinced anxiety as to the Greco-Turkish relations, and appeared to fear that Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey might combine against Servia and Greece.

This may for the moment be added to additional moderating influence.

(Repeated to Constantinople.)

[44441] No. 210.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 232. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 29, 1913.*

THE Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs read this morning to the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires telegram from the Servian vice-consul attached to the Russian Legation at Scutari, stating that reports are current that the Turks and the Albanians at Puka propose shortly to be massacred at Oroshi. The Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires is telegraphing this to his Government.

(Repeated to Scutari.)

[44435] No. 211.

Earl Cromer to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 67. Confidential.)
To Paris. *Berlin, September 29, 1913.*

TURKEY [illegible].

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is convinced, from remarks made by the Grand Vizier to the German Ambassador at Constantinople, that Albania will be Servia's sphere of influence. Turkey will have nothing to do with Albania. Servia is expected to come to terms with Turkey as soon as she has got what she wants from Bulgaria regarding Vakoufs and that delicate question, of which Russia is the sponsor, will be dealt with. Delegates are to be nominated by the Ottoman Government as soon as the Grand Vizier has said to the German Ambassador that the Powers are to be asked by the Powers to do so.

[44436] No. 212.

Earl Cromer to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 68.
Secret. *Berlin, September 29, 1913.*

With reference to Your Excellency's Telegram No. 7 of 27th September last, I have had a conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the Russian proposals, and I am glad to say that Count Pourtalès is willing to agree with the existing views of the Concert. He showed me the Austrian answer, which is being sent you, and which is unsatisfactory. It contains a further proviso to the effect that he must first be in communication with the Italian Government, and that the Austrian and Italian Admirals must be consulted. I pointed out that this was unnecessary.

[44442] No. 213.

W. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey. (Received September 29.)

(No. 375.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, September 29, 1913.*

CONSTANTINOPLE telegram No. 182 of 24th September.

Wishing to protect foreigners, hundreds of farmhouses in Servia have been subjected to repeated outrages and forty-eight men massacred by organised Turkish troops on 19th September.

Minister for Foreign Affairs states that Turks have not advanced further in last few days, and have been nowhere near Melnik or Petrich, and there have been no collisions.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[44558] No. 214.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Crackanthorpe.

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 29, 1913.*

ITALIAN Government suggest that all Powers should warn Servian Government that their troops should not pass beyond limits of districts allotted to Servia by Powers.

You may act accordingly if all your colleagues are similarly instructed.

[44558] No. 215.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 29, 1913.*

ITALIAN Government learn that demonstration is being organised at Koritza to impress Commission of Delimitation with popularity of Greek aspirations, and suggest that all Powers should ask Greek Government to discourage such manifestations.

You may act accordingly if all your colleagues are similarly instructed.

[43124] No. 216.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Johnstone.

(No. 45.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 29, 1913.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 127 of the 19th relative to the appointment of Netherlands officers for the Albanian gendarmerie.

As regards the question of conveying a private note to the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to the religion of the officers, I agree with you that the Russian Minister in thinking that, in the circumstances, this step may well be deferred. You are, however, authorised to act in concert with M. Dumaine, whatever may be his instructions on the subject, with regard to the attitude adopted by your French colleague.

I may add that my views on this question have been conveyed many days to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at this Court.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[44574] No. 217.

Colonel Granet to Sir W. Tyrrell. (Received September 30.)

Dear Tyrrell, *Scutari, September 14, 1913.*

OUR work of delimitation of the Albanian frontier may be said to have begun to take shape this morning when, at the suggestion of one Fazli Bey Korcza, the chiefs of the Dibra district, who happen to be in Scutari, came to visit the four members of the Delimitation Commission now here in order to afford them information regarding supplies, means of communication, camping grounds, water supply, practicability of the roads, and the weather conditions in their part of the country. They answered all the questions put to them without reserve or hesitation, and assured us that they would assist us by every means in their power. I would mention that Fazli Bey, whose acquaintance I made through Aubrey Herbert, is an intelligent, well-educated gentleman, who has travelled and spent some time in most of the chief countries of Europe, and that he speaks four or five European languages with facility. To his great disappointment, however, and for reasons which are unknown to me, he was not made a member of the Provisional Government of Vallona, to which he is now showing himself extremely hostile. In fact I know that

he [illegible] general has received [illegible] Austrian Government to warn [illegible] kept off parties who [illegible] Scutari, and I have reason to believe that similar instructions have been sent to the Austrian consul-general. I am also informed, on the same authority, that [illegible] secret service agent in the pay of the Austrian Government. This is borne out by the fact that yesterday when, knowing nothing of [illegible], I introduced him to Colonel Metzl, my Austrian colleague, the latter at first pretended not to know me and was plainly surprised and put out at finding me with him. I found out later on that Marani had two days before told Colonel Metzl that he was a man who might be useful to the Commission at Durazzo and proposed to bring him to see him, but had not done so. When Marani came into the room Metzl suddenly remembered that he knew Durazzo very well, and I was put in possession of the facts I was somewhat at a loss to account for his annoyance at having met me, and at the confusion he exhibited when I reminded him of our acquaintance after having conceded if not denied it. I know Metzl well, as he was military attaché at Rome for some years. While there he had the rank, at least as regards Austria, of "brigadier" and [illegible] both the Minister of War and the Chief of the General Staff warned Marani to be very careful in his dealings with me. You will learn more about him if you care to read Italian newspaper reports on the Italian manœuvres of 1908. I may mention these facts in order to show that we may possibly have trouble with the Commission although, as we know [illegible] about that, I hope we may be able to avoid it.

After the chiefs had departed, General Potapoff, Marani and an Austrian captain who is Metzl's assistant [illegible] themselves were left behind to inform us as to our general mode of procedure and our last point of departure. These questions were discussed from the point of view of supply, the local situation, and, which is paramount importance from the weather. The Russian delegate, General Potapoff was [illegible] beginning here in order to show the Italian Gruia and to frame questions, so far as they were concerned, was ever mixed dealt with, and that they would better accept my solution or take the consequences. After some discussion it was persuaded to take our view, which was to leave them as for the present and try [illegible] quietly. Everything on the frontier in connection with this has been [illegible] quiet. At present they are [illegible] in, and moreover, they have been [illegible] and [illegible] so much written and telegraphed about have been so [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] by the Great Powers [illegible] and [illegible] Austrian propaganda that [illegible] have now come to [illegible] that the wild Dreapsas [illegible] [illegible] that their grievances. We therefore considered that to go straight on with 800 armed troops [illegible] would be provocative, and therefore from every point of view, unwise. We decided, therefore, that it would be better to [illegible] as they are, [illegible], so to speak, ignore the fact that they [illegible] to the Servian Government's organised and [illegible] to maintain order in the [illegible] Mussulman tribes. Durazzo was then selected as a convenient starting place, but rejected on account of the height of the [illegible]. However, on the principle of there being covered with snow by the [illegible] Durazzo Lake Ochrida was also rejected for the same reason. The only two places remaining were Koritza and Prespa, and we finally selected Koritza, as we thought we might be able to work for a week or two in the south of the watershed. [illegible] Ochrida, Struga, Gostivar and Kalkandelen in the valley of the Drin, we were again stopped by snow in the northern mountains. Prespa has the further advantage that the topographers will be able to form a base there, so their work will consequently be more accurate than if they started from a point whose position had not been accurately fixed by trigonometrical survey as, for instance, is the case here. It is proposed to ask the Servian Government whether they have any objection to the presence of Austrian and Italian troops there during the winter months. Potapoff believes there will not be the slightest difficulty on this score, but I think if I were an Austrian soldier I should not care about it.

I forgot to say that the French and German delegates are expected here about the 20th and the Austrian troops and topographers not before the 6th October at the very earliest. The Italian detachments, I believe, ready at Brindisi, and can be here at any moment. We should not therefore look for them before the 15th October, arriving at Durazzo four days later.

I hope you will forgive this long screed, but I thought you might like to know something about our situation here, and, as nothing has happened officially, I thought

it better to say what I had to say in a private letter rather than in an official despatch.

I think the Austrians are all looking forward to hearing of their [illegible] with something like enthusiasm.

Good bye.

Yours always,
E. F. CRANE.

[44603] No. 218.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—Received September 30.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, September 30, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of two telegrams, dated the 28th instant, relative to Albanian affairs.

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 218.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *September 28, 1913.*

THE Austrian member of the Commission is back at Scutari.

Enclosure 2 in No. 218.

Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *September 28, 1913.*

FROM both local and private sources I gained the information to-day that the Austrian Admiral yesterday sent a provocative communication to Mukjeri, thereby cancelling my visit of the 29th September to that tribe, who [illegible] to withdraw to their territories, informing them at the same time that [illegible] the assurance of the Government of Montenegro that no advance would be made on the Malissori exception proyecat ion.

[44794] No. 219.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received September 30.)

(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, September 29, 1913.*

I THINK Monteforte's instructions to receive reply to his proposal made to His Majesty's Government through Russian Embassy that Austrian Commissioner of Control should assemble [illegible] squadron. He has received unfavourable reply from Paris. Russian Commissioner proposes to start on 3rd October new style. Desires to call at Salonica unless slight extra delay involved is inconvenient.

[44619] No. 220.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 230.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 26, 1913.*

BERLIN telegram No. 167 of 26th September.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs told me last night that he had received private information from Constantinople to the effect that Turkey and Bulgaria has

come to an agreement in regard to an exchange of the Dedeagatch coast-line for the Cavalla coast-line in the event of military success against Greece.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs said that it was fortunate that Albanian movement was being dealt with in time, Turkish and Bulgarian policy was now being directed by adventurers.

I hear privately that a report has been received from county prefect of Novi-Bazar informing of the capture of a Bosnian Mahommedan who has confessed to being an Austrian agent for the purpose of inciting insurrection in the sanjak.

(Confidential.)

I have reason to believe that Turkey is disposed to play a double game, and would like to separate Servia from Greece by promise of support in Albania through Essad Pasha. Turkish delegate is expected here in a few days to negotiate definite Treaty of Peace with Servia.

I am, however, informed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Servians were under obligation to go solid with Greece in the event of Turkey attacking the latter.

[44601.] No. 221.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received September 30.*)

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 30, 1913.*

CONSTANTINOPLE telegram No. 490 of 29th September.

The Greek Government have not heard of any Turkish troops in the immediate neighbourhood of the Greek frontier, though they are still uneasy as to Turkish intentions.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

44604 No. 222.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 30.*)

No. 402.
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, September 30, 1913.*

TURKEY and Bulgaria.

Treaty was signed last night. It comes into force at once. To be ratified in fifteen days and provides that both countries demobilise in three weeks, while ceded territory is to be handed over in forty days.

As to particular division of the treaty is contained in a protocol annexed to it, by which Porte has virtually imposed Capitulations on Bulgaria as regards Mussulmans resident in her territory.

Copy by post to-day.

(Sent to Sofia.)

44606 No. 223.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September 30.*)

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 30, 1913.*

ALBANIA.

I learn from a confidential source that parleys are going on between Vienna and Rome on the subject of Albanian invasion of Servia and of its possible consequences. I am informed that the Austro-Hungarian Government desire that Austria and Italy should bring pressure to bear on Belgrade together, whereas for the present the Italian Government prefer that the steps should be taken collectively by the Powers. I am informed that, up to last night, no agreement had been arrived at on this point. The Austro-Hungarian Government maintain that, unless Austria and Italy show at Belgrade that they are united and determined not to allow any alteration of the north-western frontier of Albania, representations will have no effect on the Servian Government.

[44716] No. 224.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 472.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 30, 1913.*

POINT out privately to Turkish Government that indefinite prolongation of technical state of war with Greece affects British trade and shipping considerably and express our anxiety for definite conclusion of peace at earliest possible date.

(Repeated to Athens, No. 133.)

[44639] No. 225.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October 1.*)

(No. 494.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, September 30, 1913.*

GREECE and Turkey.

The Grand Vizier informs me that the despatch of final instructions to the Turkish delegates will be delayed by illness of Reshid Bey who was to start to-day.

It seems doubtful whether even the Greek acceptance of the Turkish requirements in questions of nationality and Evkaf will now satisfy the Turks.

On 28th September 4,500 troops in disguise were despatched to Garmiyan and Xanthi and another similar force of 3,000 men was being got ready at Ortakeui.

I think that the conclusions of Berlin telegram No. 167 of 29th September are generally correct.

(Sent to Athens.)

[44779.] No. 226.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received October 2.*)

(No. 174.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Athens, October 1, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 169 of 20th September.

Austrian and Italian Charges d'Affaires are to-day making representations with regard to newspaper correspondents in the sense desired by the Commission.

[44772] No. 227.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October 1.*)

(No. 148.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Vienna, October 1, 1913.*

ALBANIA.

Your telegram No. 345 of 27th September, and your telegram No. 347 of 28th September to Paris.

I have just received a note from the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that Austro-Hungarian delegates of the International Commission of Control cannot reach Vallona before 23rd October. His Excellency is of opinion, however, that steps can be taken forthwith to dissolve the Council of Admirals, and that it does not matter if there is a brief interregnum between closing it and assembling of the Commission of Control.

Minister for Foreign Affairs expresses satisfaction at the choice of Vallona as meeting-place of the Commission.

Note by post.

[44791] No. 228.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October 1.*)

(No. 237.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 1, 1913.*

FOLLOWING from Monastir to-day, No. 34:—

"Greek troops have occupied Pogradets. Eleventh regiment, about 800 strong, arrived here 27th September *viâ* Salonica with a battery of field guns and a machine

gun company and was sent towards Resna. Servians have since occupied Ochrida. No other troops have arrived here. Officer commanding at Monastir informs me that Servian columns are advancing on Dibra and Kirchevo and Gostivar. Local branch of Servian National Bank is sending away its cash, but there has been no disturbance in this town."

[44780] No. 229.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 176.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 1, 1913.*

THE Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires told Sir Eyre Crowe on the [illegible] ultimo that he deeply regretted to have to make a disagreeable communication about the British vice-admiral at Scutari.

Sir E. Crowe at once interrupted Count Trauttmansdorff and begged him to consider the question whether such a complaint would serve any useful purpose. He warned Count Trauttmansdorff that if he persisted [illegible] might have something unpleasant to say in return about the Austrian admiral. His Majesty's Government, on their part, had [illegible] refrained from raising such disagreeable personal questions, and [illegible] thought it would be wise not to enter into the path of personal recriminations. The [illegible] commission was soon to come to an end. [illegible] more anxious [illegible] were His Majesty's Government to bring away the admirals, as the conditions under which they had to carry out their duties were far from satisfactory. The presiding British admiral was constantly placed in a most embarrassing position, and there was evidently not that spirit of loyal co-operation in the Commission which His Majesty's Government would have expected.

Count Trauttmansdorff took all that was said in very good part, and said he personally quite agreed, but that he must carry out his instructions. He would, however, [illegible] himself to communicating to Sir E. Crowe the bare facts of the particular incident which had provoked his present instructions.

At a recent meeting of the Commission, the question of the construction of a bridge over the river [illegible] Austrian firm [illegible] applied for the contract to carry out the work, and four out of the five admirals were in favour of awarding it to the firm. The Austrian admiral, however, said he could express no opinion on the subject without previously referring home for instructions. Thereupon Sir C. Burney put the proposition to the vote and declared it carried by 4 to 1, regardless of the fact that the Austrian admiral had not voted at all. Apart from this the Austro-Hungarian Government held that [illegible] majority was [illegible], the admirals met [illegible] conference [illegible] and was [illegible] bound by the rules of [illegible]. All valid decisions must therefore be unanimous.

Sir E. Crowe asked Count Trauttmansdorff whether it was correct that the Commission had [illegible] never decided anything that was not unanimously agreed upon. If so, it would explain [illegible] Count Trauttmansdorff said that there was nothing to show that a majority vote had ever been admitted. Sir C. Burney [illegible] endeavoured to justify his conduct by [illegible] that the principle of granting the contract to the Italian firm had already been accepted at an earlier meeting. There was, however, nothing in the protocols to confirm this, and if the matter had already been decided, how was it that it had to be decided a second time?

The Austro-Hungarian Government were so incensed at the British admiral's action that they had instructed their admiral to attend no more meetings of the Commission unless and until the offending resolution had been cancelled and expunged from the minutes.

Sir E. Crowe told Count Trauttmansdorff, who agreed, that he could not well express any opinion concerning this incident without having the British admiral's version of the facts. He would accordingly ask me to call for a report from Sir C. Burney in the first instance.

On the 22nd ultimo, however, a telegram, copy of which is enclosed,* was received at the Admiralty from Sir C. Burney giving his version of the incident of which the Austro-Hungarian Government had complained.

Count Trauttmansdorff called again on the 26th ultimo and was informed of the substance of Sir C. Burney's telegram.

* Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty, September 22, 1913.

Sir E. Crowe said that it was a pity that he should have been instructed to make the complaint on apparently very fragmentary information. The facts now reported made it clear (1) that the bridge had to be built; (2) that the original contract was given to the Italian firm with the approval of the Austro-Hungarian admiral; (3) that every opportunity was given to the Austrian admiral to obtain further instructions when it was found necessary to enlarge the contract; and (4) that the Austrian admiral was unable to obtain any instructions until it became impossible to defer any longer a decision which had been admitted to be urgent.

[illegible] Sir C. Burney had to do something. The authorities at Vienna appeared to be quite incapable of realising the [illegible] caused by their failure to give answers to urgent and important questions. Sir E. Crowe did not [illegible] that it was the intention of those [illegible] to prevent the Commission [illegible] from doing the work with which they were charged, but in practice [illegible] that would have been the inevitable effect of the [illegible] the four other admirals [illegible] to get this urgent matter settled somehow.

The [illegible] instruction to the Austrian admiral to attend no further meetings left only two alternatives: either the Commission [illegible] must cease to act altogether, or they must act without the Austrian admiral. He asked Count Trauttmansdorff whether his Government [illegible] really meant deliberately to create such a situation.

Count Trauttmansdorff was quite ready to admit that his Government had been much to blame, especially in the matter of not answering requests for instructions. But he feared they would [illegible] this matter [illegible]. The Austrian admiral now at Scutari was not the same who had been there at first. The latter, on being referred to, had categorically [illegible] that the [illegible] had ever been [illegible] at any [illegible] of the Commission before its recent [illegible]. There was, therefore, here a vital disagreement concerning the facts. He did not see how his Government could be got to accept the correctness of Sir C. Burney's statements. [illegible] they could not get over the difficulty created by the latter's assertion that the Commission had decided by a majority of 4 to 1, when the Austrian admiral had not voted at all, and, in fact, refused to give a vote.

[illegible] Count Trauttmansdorff asked Sir E. Crowe whether he could not himself suggest a way out of this difficulty which the Austro-Hungarian Government could honourably accept.

Sir E. Crowe said that he had no authority to do so. But speaking personally, he had no hesitation in saying what he would do were he the Austro-Hungarian Government. He would remember that the [illegible] element in the matter was the interest of Albania, and not the *amour-propre* of admirals or [illegible]. He would therefore [illegible] the Austrian admiral to tell Sir C. Burney that there was no intention to impede the necessary work on the bridge, and that the original contract was [illegible]; that as to the question of form [illegible] record [illegible] of what passed, the majority [illegible] he should arrange matters with the other admirals in some practical way so that the work of the Commission could continue, if possible with less friction in future. As for the discrepancy regarding the facts [illegible] Austrian admiral [illegible] the German, French and Italian admirals as to what happened. According to Sir C. Burney's report, the Commission came to a unanimous decision. They must therefore [illegible] in a position to say what occurred.

Count Trauttmansdorff asked Sir E. Crowe whether he might mention these suggestions at Vienna as coming from Sir E. Crowe, and the latter said that he had no objection, provided it was made perfectly clear that he spoke without authority and was merely expressing personal opinion.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[43339] No. 230.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 177.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 1, 1913.*

THE Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires came to call attention to the fact that by an officially published notification the Servian Government had announced the establishment of a number of custom-houses on their new frontiers. Among these there were several which were undoubtedly many miles beyond the Albanian boundary

as laid down by the Powers. His Government considered it essential that the Servian Government should be made to withdraw these posts, and they hoped that all the representatives of the six Powers at Belgrade would present this demand collectively to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. This could with advantage be done simultaneously with the demand for the complete evacuation of the Albanian territory still occupied by Servia.

Sir E. Crowe said the necessary instruction would be telegraphed to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to associate himself with his colleagues in this matter, and thus has now been done.

Sir E. Crowe took the opportunity however of reminding Count Trauttmansdorff that in pursuance of the plan favoured by his Government the representatives of the Powers at Belgrade seemed now to be occupied in presenting almost daily collective or identic notes, demarches, and threats to the Servian Government. The collective note was one of the most formidable weapons of diplomacy, and it had been customary to employ it on grave occasions when it had generally produced considerable effect. Was there not a danger that the frequent recurrence of this formidable weapon would effectively blunt its edge? What weight could he think our showers of collective representations would have with the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs? Were we not justified in reserving our united voices for unimportant trifles and rather out of season? Already, instead of taking so much, we were to concentrate our efforts on getting the frontiers of Albania north and south properly adjusted, we could hope to have a definite frontier marked out in a short time. Whether or meanwhile, there were a few stone crosses or outposts or even larger bodies of troops on the wrong side of the line, seemed to Sir E. Crowe really rather a small matter. Why not wait till the frontier was to be finally laid down, and then come down with categorical demands on offenders against the majesty of Europe, whether Servian or Greeks, and insist on making a clear situation. If we had postponed the manufacture of collective notes until then, we might almost certainly have counted upon creating a serious impression. Sir E. Crowe was afraid we were accustoming these small States to receiving our communications with little displeasure. We should probably do well to save our heavy ammunition for a decisive shot.

Count Trauttmansdorff professed to agree with everything Sir E. Crowe said, and admitted that the Vienna Foreign Office could not easily get out of the habit of treating Servia like a naughty schoolboy and, like a head schoolmaster, was ever ready to resort to the stick in order to "live up to its authority" respected. He promised to use such influence as he had to accelerate the work of the delimitation commissions, and meanwhile to avoid pressing a multiplicity of small and comparatively unimportant questions.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[44780] No. 231

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 1, 1913.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 22nd ultimo, relative to the incident which has arisen in the International Navigation Commission at Scutari in connection with the assignment of a contract for the repair of a bridge over the Drin, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch which he has addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna on the subject.*

I am to observe that His Majesty's Government are somewhat hampered in this discussion by the fact that the Austro-Hungarian Government are apparently in possession of protocols of the proceedings of the Commission which are not in Sir E. Grey's possession, and that, if such authoritative records are regularly made at Scutari, it would be desirable that copies of them should be sent home regularly.

I am accordingly to express the hope that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty may be moved to cause an enquiry to be addressed to Sir C. Barnes on this point, and to instruct him to furnish copies of these protocols if they are in existence.

I am to suggest that a brief summary of what has passed in connection with this controversy should be telegraphed to Sir C. Barnes.

I am, &c.
EYRE A. CROWE.

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* No. 229.

[44824] No. 232.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 353. Confidential.)

Sir, *Berlin, September 30, 1913.*

AS I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 347 of yesterday, Herr von Jagow takes a very gloomy view of the situation in the Balkans. He thinks there is very little doubt that the Albanian movement against Servia is being engineered and probably directed by Turkey, and he told me that Baron von Wangenheim had reported that the divergence of views at Turkey seemed to be passing more and more from Constantinople to Adrianople, where, it must be noted, Izzet Pasha was an Albanian. I saw the Servian Chargé d'Affaires last night just after he had had an interview with Herr von Jagow, and he told me that Herr von Jagow had made the same remark to him about Izzet Pasha. Herr von Jagow regrets that the obvious object of the Porte in stirring up the Albanians against Servia is to keep the latter country fully occupied, and to prevent her coming to the assistance of her ally if Turkey attacks Greece. This, his Excellency thinks, is almost certain. Turkey was sure encouraged by her success in recovering Adrianople and a good slice of Thrace that she might well think herself capable of inflicting a severe defeat on Greece. If she succeeded in doing so she would press unduly hard on Cavalla at least of the Saloniki littoral in favourable terms on the Vakoufia and neutrality question, and modify to her own advantage the Aegean islands. Whether, having captured Cavalla, Turkey would hand it over to Bulgaria in exchange for Dedeagatch remained to be seen. Baron von Wangenheim had instructed the Ambassador to the Grand Vizier who had replied with protestations of his entire absence of any idea of interfering with what lay in the hands of the Powers, but had added, *sotto voce*, that if the Powers gave all the islands to Greece "c'est la guerre."

I have, &c.
GRANVILLE.

[44938] No. 233.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 171. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 2, 1913.*

GRAND VIZIER has told the German Ambassador at Constantinople that demobilisation would commence on 4th October. German Foreign Office are sceptical, and expect to hear shortly that army has refused to demobilise. They still expect war between Turkey and Greece.

German Ambassador reports that Chosenzer Legate of the Porte, who is being sent to Athens in place of Reshid Bey, is a man of difficult character.

[44949] No. 234.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 306.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, October 2, 1913.*

BELGRADE telegram No. 229 of 28th September.

Servian Consul here, who is usually well informed and in constant communication with his Government, saw no reason to fear Bulgarian intentions until it was suggested to him from Belgrade a month ago that Belgrade telegram No. 213 of 18th September. Since then he has been seeing ghosts. He thinks preparations are being made as secret for mobilisation of 7th division at Dubnitza and 1 of 1st division at Sophia and appearances a design of occupying Kocanna, &c., and then demanding revision of Treaty of Bucharest.

Facts appear to be as follows:

On demobilisation in August contingents of 1910 and 1911 were kept with colours as well as those of 1912 and 1913 normally serving, and were mostly drafted from their own units to 2nd Division at Philippopolis and to 3rd and 8th specially

stationed on Thracian frontier (see my telegram No. 349 of 19th August); since then, owing to incidents of insubordination, 1910 contingent has been released. Above-mentioned divisions now probably number 8,000 or 9,000 bayonets each, their transport and supply services remain mobilised, so that they could take the field at war strength at a few days' notice. Remainder of army is on peace footing.

In the event of Turkey advancing through Thrace against Greece Bulgaria may attempt to reconquer as a precaution or with a view to profit by situation in any way possible.

Government and political and military classes would be willing to take great risks in order to retrieve position, but general foreign opinion is that army is not prepared morally or materially for another war.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[44794] No. 235.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. O'Beirne.

(No. 681.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, October 2, 1913.*

YOUR telegram to Sir A. Nicolson of 30th September. Russian proposals respecting Albania.

Russian proposals made here were following:—

1. That the Commission of Control should proceed to Albania within the next fortnight and relieve the admirals of their duties at Scutari.

2. That in view of the objections raised by certain Powers against Scutari as meeting-place the Commission should assemble at Valona.

3. That the Commission should be charged with the elaboration of a programme of proceedings for later and also after consulting the necessary enquiries in the spot.

We have informed other Powers that we agree, and as practically all of them have now accepted Valona as meeting-place, it will only be necessary to propose another arrangement there.

You may inform Russian Government.

[43420] No. 236.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie. *

(No. 506.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 2, 1913.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Athens,† reporting a conversation with the Greek Prime Minister on the subject of the annexation of Crete by Greece.

It seems to me to be necessary for the protecting Powers to invite the Greek Government directly to reason in the matter, but it is likely that the latter would consider the annexation of the island by the protecting Powers would be recognise the *de facto* Government of the same.

You should therefore mention the matter to the Government to which you are accredited and enquire whether they would be prepared to take joint action in the above sense.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[45646] No. 237.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 606. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 2, 1913.*

THE French Ambassador called upon Sir A. Nicolson this afternoon, and informed him very confidentially that he had received an unexpected visit from the

* Also to Mr. Dering (No. 239), Mr. O'Beirne (No. 338), and Mr. Marling (No. 322).
† Sir F. Elliot, No. 219, September 27, 1913.

King of Greece on the eve of the latter's departure from England. His Majesty begged M. Cambon not to let it be known that he called upon him, as he did not intend to pay any visits elsewhere.

The King first thanked M. Cambon for the manner in which he had looked after Greek interests during some of the Ambassadors' conferences, but more particularly the main object of his visit was to explain the extremely embarrassing position in which Greece at present finds herself, and the fear which she has lest Turkey should put forward claims which would be most detrimental to Greek interests. He especially alluded to the question of the islands and of Cavala.

M. Cambon then pointed out the observation that it would have been useless for Greece at the present moment to enter into negotiations with Turkey, knowing, as she must, that such negotiations as the Vakoufs and the treatment of Greeks inhabiting the Turkish hinterland, could not be concluded in a short space of time, and before Bulgaria had herself come to terms with Turkey. The King replied that M. Venizelos was chiefly responsible for insisting on the questions, which were right in principle and as such must be pressed, but M. Venizelos had delegated and was disposed to pay more attention to details now to the real questions at stake. His Majesty then went on to say that he was extremely perplexed as to the intentions of Turkey. In fact the Ambassador told the King that the Turks had 350,000 men in what remained of European Turkey, and that Greece was in a position to put only 50,000 men against them as a large portion of the Greek army had been employed in Albania. If, therefore, Turkey decided to make an attempt to secure Cavala, Greece would hardly be in a position to resist her in a military sense. The same situation, more or less, though to a less degree, existed with respect to the islands. His Majesty feared that the Turks might be contemplating a stab in the back, and should they succeed in obtaining a foothold on the islands lying around the Dardanelles the waters washing that shore.

M. Cambon then went on to say to His Majesty that he would have thought that the Greeks must have all the more reason to feel secure after what had taken place upon Mytilene. The King said that, after all, the two battleships were the only seagoing vessels which were at the disposal of Greece at present, that they were not good sailors, and were unlucky ships. His Majesty then went on to say that he believed that these reports would be somewhat modified very largely, but at the present moment the Greek fleet was practically useless. The King therefore expressed the hope that the Powers would intervene, and insist on the cessation of the islands acting as their decision and that the intervention that the Greek Minister had been instructed to speak upon the subject—in fact he had done so that very day.

M. Cambon asked the King if Greece had consulted with the Powers? His Majesty replied in the negative, and said that he believed the matter was mentioned only in general terms. M. Cambon remarked that if the Greek Government wished to know what attitude the Powers would adopt in certain eventualities, it was for that purpose only to enter into two of their would lead to any results.

M. Cambon begged that the above should be kept entirely confidential. Sir A. Nicolson took the opportunity of asking M. Cambon what was the right his Government would adopt if the Turks should formulate demands upon Greece in regard to the islands or if they should possibly attack Greece with a view of the islands? He said he was unable to tell Sir A. Nicolson as he had not any idea as to what course his Government would be likely to pursue. Personally he thought that it would be found possible to obtain a consensus of opinion amongst the Powers in favour of an effective kind being exercised upon Turkey. So far as Sir A. Nicolson could gather his view was that the Powers as a whole would probably allow events to develop as has been done in the case of Adrianople.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[45077] No. 238.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 243. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 3, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 239 of 2nd October.

Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires informs me that telegram has been received this afternoon at Servian Ministry for Foreign Affairs from Servian Minister at Bucharest

stating that Roumanian Government, having now received precise information as to situation, has confirmed guarantees for Servia against Bulgaria. Attitude of Roumania will be exactly similar to that adopted during recent war, and attacking side will have to deal with her. Presumably necessary advice is being given at Sofia.

(Repeated to Bucharest and Sofia.)

[45272] No. 208

Mr. Crackanthorpe (Sofia) to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 246. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 4, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 243 of 3rd October.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs confirms above telegram.

He stated that Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs had promised intervention of Roumania at Sofia and Athens in struggle, which will in the first instance take the form of "naval demonstration." Should this fail Roumania will, in the event of Turco-Bulgarian attack, go to help of Greece and Servia.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs seems only recently to have become aware of the seriousness of the situation. He stated very confidently that Bulgarian commanders-in-chief had arranged to meet Chief Marshal of Roumanian staff at Sofia and have later accepted at Bucharest. A colleague of the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Bucharest, as soon as called to this, stated that Government was about to make serious representations at Sofia.

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs now believes that the effect of Servian Prime Minister's visit to Paris of a defensive alliance between Greece and Servia, taken in conjunction with the present attitude of Roumania, will be to damp military ardour at Constantinople, though he does not think that all danger as yet passed, and he seems to appreciate intervention of Triple Entente Powers and Germany at Constantinople.

(Repeated to Constantinople, Bucharest, Sofia, and Athens.)

[45283] No. 210

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 5, 1913.*

TURKISH delegates expected from Constantinople to-day with latest Turkish proposals.

Greece altogether acceptable offer of intervention to prevent attempt to restore the King who is very hysterical, and I have forbidden Greek Government will accept first time and further measures such as blockade.

General Staff have received reports of repulsing attacks by Turks alone, if Bulgarians join, arrangements with Servians and Roumania takes effect.

(Very confidential.)

Prime Minister understands Turks will insist on rationality question rather than on Vatussi, if so there is prospect of arrangement as he is prepared to yield on the former, but not on the latter. He is, however, keeping back concession on the rationality question as his last trump.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[45280] No. 211

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 165.)
(Telegraphic.) R *Constantinople, October 5, 1913.*

I SPOKE to the Grand Vizier this morning in the sense of your telegram No. 462 of 30th September, and I said I hoped he quite understood the importance to trade of an early peace with Greece. Turkey was only asking in regard to nationality

same terms as those already agreed to by Bulgaria, and in regard to Mussulman communities the conditions of Treaty of 1881.

His tone was uncompromising.

(Sent to Athens.)

[45278] No. 212.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 300.)
(Telegraphic.) R *St. Petersburgh, October 6, 1913.*

GREEK Government have communication of Russian Government to threatening attitude of Turkey.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that Russian Ambassador at Constantinople spoke to Grand Vizier some days ago on this subject, but received an evasive reply. Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs is of opinion that such isolated conversations are useless, and that any single effective action at Constantinople by the Powers can produce effect. He thinks that both France and Germany have strong reasons for supporting Greece, and that these two Powers may be expected to play a prominent part in present question.

[45295] No. 213

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 285.)
Sir, *St. Petersburgh, October 1, 1913.*

I AM informed that there has been no abatement in the displeasure shown by the Imperial and the Russian Government towards King of Montenegro since the latter's disregard of the Emperor's personal wishes. The decoration of the Serbian Cross of St. George, Russian Imperial Order, which is worn by King Nicholas very closely, of cessation of his supplies which used to flow more or less regularly in millers' cheques, for Montenegrin Legation Chapel that the unpleasing letters have been received at St. Petersburgh from King Nicholas so far without avail. In this connection it is interesting to see personal intervention in the Montenegrin capital for the creation of girls of Slavonic origin as they are to be transferred to Servia. The initiative in this latter was, however, taken by the Montenegrin Government who on the 4th April last trusted that they might be able to find another institution "more in accord with the needs in the country."

The attitude adopted by the Emperor towards King Nicholas corresponds with that which His Imperial Majesty assumed towards Bulgaria on the ground that the Imperial interests are the paramount and engrossing ideal of the Russian Sovereign, and on the eve of the second Balkan war that the side which commenced hostilities would find that the support of Russia and must suffer the consequences of it. This is not evidently a convenient time to watch, while soothing to Russia's sense of dignity, to ascertain of the necessity of showing over much energy in championing her former protégés.

I have, &c.
JULIAN O'BEIRNE.

[45296] No. 214

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 284.)
Sir, *St. Petersburgh, October 1, 1913.*

WHEN the Serbo-Albanian question was approaching crisis at the beginning of last week, I found the Russian Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs inclined to lay the blame for what occurred entirely at Count Berchtold's door. He expressed, as I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 340 of the 22nd September, strong suspicions of Austrian policy, saying that to Austrian Government, whose affecting to consider the position in Albania perfectly normal and satisfactory, and whilst pressing Servia to evacuate the points which she had occupied in Albanian territory, had on the meanwhile themselves delayed the commencement of work by the commission of control by postponing

the appointment of their own delegate. It is true that at this time M. Neratof had not had the advantage of receiving Count Berchtold's explanations as to the difficulty of finding an Austrian official to fill the post of commissioner. His Excellency's idea was not that Austria actually desired to create a pretext for sending troops into Albania, but that she wished to use the Albanian difficulty as an instrument of pressure on Servia in connection with the various questions, economic and other, which are still awaiting negotiation between the Austrian and Servian governments.

After the Albanian attack on Servian territory had taken place M. Neratof gave me to understand that he approved of Servia's resolve to inflict a severe punishment on the Albanians, to penetrate into Albania for that purpose, and to retain certain positions in Albanian territory after the military operations had been carried out. He had, however, advised against Belgrade, recommending the Servian Government to show the same prudence as they had done in the past. He did not conceal that these counsels, if followed, had been of a very pressing character, and I remarked that Servia's intended course would be very likely to give rise to objections from Austria. M. Neratof was aware of that, but said that it was necessary that Servia should take measures to protect herself against a recurrence of the recent incidents.

Yesterday the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs further disclosed to me that he no longer doubted that Servia would demand compensation for the Albanian attack on her. I fear that the compliance with any such necessary demand would bring her into conflict with the decisions of the Ambassadors' conference in London. M. Neratof replied that since the Powers had made Albania a neutral State and under their guarantee, they could not, even for the right of another State, which had been the object of an unprovoked attack from Albania, to recover compensation for the losses which it had thereby suffered.

I have, &c.
HUGH O'BEIRNE.

[45301] No. 245.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 250.)
Sir, *St. Petersburgh, October 2, 1913.*

AT a recent conversation which I had on the 16th ultimo with my Greek colleague regarding the threatened complications between Turkey and Greece I gathered that he would be sincerely anxious to express a definite opinion as to the degree of support which Greece could look for from Russia should Turkey show herself seriously aggressive. M. Psycha had not as yet been instructed to make any representations to me, but he appeared to have some positive assurances to give from the Russian Government might result in strong and energetic attitude on their part in favour of Greece. I could not, however, from other sources that the attitude of the Russian Government towards Greece has of late been one of extreme coldness. M. Kokovtsof, indeed, spoke to me not long ago in terms not very friendly to the Greeks, saying that he regretted that they should have attained an extent of territorial aggrandisement which would in the near future make them extremely dangerous neighbours to Turkey. Greece threatens to become a preponderantly powerful in the future. So far as really serious support from the Powers at the present juncture is concerned, M. Psycha appeared to place his hopes chiefly on France, and I gathered that in this he was reflecting the views of His Government.

I was struck by the small account which the Greek Chargé d'Affaires seemed to make of the military co-operation which Greece might expect from Servia. He was not referring to the fact that Servia may have her hands full in dealing with the Albanian rising nor to the difficulties which she is known to have experienced in her latest mobilisation, but he spoke, if I correctly understood him, as though Greece had no military arrangements with Servia on which she could rely in an emergency. As to any possible action by Bulgaria, he said that his Government was that she was too exhausted to put more than 20,000 men in the field, though this, of course, would be leaving out of account the operations of irregular Bulgarian bands.

I have, &c.
HUGH O'BEIRNE.

[45560] No. 246.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey. (Received October 6.)

(No. 152.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 6, 1913.*

COUNT BERCHTOLD, in talking to me to-day about Turco-Greek relations, said that he was rather anxious as to situation. He said that Turkish army was very strong just now, and he thought it was getting beyond control of Turkish Government. He added that he thought that Turkey was determined to recover the islands close to Asia Minor coast, and from his language I gathered that he sympathises with Turkish aspirations. Roumania, he said, would not move unless Bulgaria did so.

Count Berchtold complained a great deal about movements of Greek troops towards Koritza and general Greek action in territory still in dispute in Southern Albania.

[45683] No. 247.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Dering.

(No. 298.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 6, 1913.*

ITALIAN Islands.

The Greek Minister here states that Government have received information that a secret arrangement has been made between Turkey and Italy whereby Italy is to hand over the islands in her possession to Turkey. Turkey would then retrocede Rhodes and Stampalia, and Italy would assist Turkey to recover Scutari and Janina.

The Greek representative at Paris has made a similar communication to the French Government.

You should, without alluding to the source, mention very confidentially to the Italian Government that assurances to this effect have reached His Majesty's Government, who have thought it friendly not to acquaint the Italian Government with them, but that in view of the assurances given by the Italian Government in regard to the islands His Majesty's Government have not thought it necessary to make any enquiries or take the matter up at Constantinople.

(Repeated to Paris, No. 356, Berlin, No. 350, Vienna, No. 287, and St. Petersburgh No. 687.)

[45611] No. 248.

M. Gennadius to Sir A. Nicolson. (Received October 7.)

Dear Sir Arthur Nicolson, *Greek Legation, London, October 3, 1913.*

IN accordance with your wish I beg to give you a copy of the communication from my Government which I had the honour of reading to you yesterday in connection with the question of the islands.

Believe me, &c.
J. GENNADIUS.

Enclosure in No. 248.

Note communicated to Greek Legation by M. Paucis.

FAISANT suite à une lettre par laquelle le soussigné a fait part du point de vue auquel le Gouvernement Royal se placerait dans la question des îles, le soussigné a cru devoir profiter de la première occasion pour dire à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères que nous considérons que les Grandes Puissances ont déjà statué sur la question des îles de manière les obligeant à admettre aucune modification.

PAUCIS.

Athènes, le 30 septembre 1913.

[45599] No. 249.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 183.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 6, 1913.*

BELGRADE telegram No. 246 of 4th October.

Minister for Foreign Affairs told me to-day that Roumania has not given any warning at Sophia or Constantinople. Minister for Foreign Affairs seemed to be sceptical as to the existence of any secret agreement between Turkey and Bulgaria against Greece and Servia, but he said that Roumanian Minister at Sophia would be instructed to make it clear to the Bulgarian Government that the Treaty of Bucharest must not be upset.

Minister for Foreign Affairs told me also that he would instruct Roumanian Minister at Athens to urge the Greek Prime Minister in a friendly way to moderate Greek pretensions, and French Chargé d'Affaires tells me that, at instigation of Minister for Foreign Affairs, he and his German colleague have advised their Governments to exercise pressure at Athens in the same sense.

(Sent to Constantinople, Sophia, Athens, and Belgrade.)

[45713] No. 250.

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 174.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 7, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 208 of 6th October.

Chief Minister for Foreign Affairs begs, especially in view of the assurances already repeatedly given that you will not accept cession of Scutari, or in any other sense Italian interest may be created. They are pure inventions, without a vestige of foundation. His Excellency added that Italy, having agreed to the peace terms to which Great Powers all seek territorial profit from the situation in the Near East, intends to adhere loyally to that principle.

45725 No. 251.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 368.)
(Telegraphic.) *Extract.* *Sophia, October 7, 1913.*

RATIFICATION of treaty with Turkey signed yesterday.

(45742] No. 252.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 217. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 7, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 246 of 4th October.

Prime Minister, who has returned, expressed on Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires this afternoon danger of Greco-Bulgarian menace. At his Excellency's request, Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires is telegraphing to his Government suggesting that Turkish Government should be at once informed of Roumanian attitude towards Bulgaria. Prime Minister believes that Bulgaria is meeting Turkey to take the offensive by promises of support and that per[illegible] securing some profit for herself, and he thinks that a warning by Roumania at Constantinople that Bulgaria's hands are practically tied would be very timely.

(Sent to Constantinople, Bucharest, and Sophia.)

[45737] No. 253.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 856.)
Sir, *Constantinople, October 2, 1913.*

IN my despatch No. 827 of the 30th ultimo I had the honour to transmit a copy of the text of the Treaty of Peace just concluded between Turkey and Bulgaria after close on a year's state of war. As the Treaty of London of the 30th May was definitive, and there was no subsequent declaration of war, this treaty lacks the peculiarity of being a treaty of peace between two countries who were not at war. It is also peculiar in that, for the first time since over 100 years, Turkey regains territory lost as a result of her own military efforts and in defiance of the decisions and pressure of Europe.

The collective note of the Great Powers in January last promised Turkey financial and other assistance against the cession of Adrianople. Turkey now finds herself in possession of Adrianople and district and practically assured of the promised financial help. This success of the Committee of Union and Progress has naturally increased their prestige in the country, and ought in the ordinary course, to ensure them a long lease of power. Their victories over Bulgaria at Europe may, however, lead to a recrudescence of the usual internal vendettas, especially in the matter of the concessions and financial contracts. Turks have recently been heard asking why they should be bound by old and galling treaties now that they have successfully overridden modern instruments like the Treaty of London.

When the first Bulgarian delegate, M. Natchevitch, arrived here on the 10th July, the Turkish press was sounding its alarm of alleged Bulgarian treaties, and it was distinctly insulting in tone. When, after the retaking of Adrianople, he was joined by General Savoff and M. Tostoff, it was clear that Bulgaria would have to submit to what-ever terms for peace.

The Bulgarians showed a practical spirit from the outset, accepting the situation, and, as the Ottoman delegates were prominent members of the Committee of Union and Progress (Talaat Bey, Minister of the Interior, Kiamil Bey, President of the Council of State, and General Mahmoud Pasha, Minister of Marine), the results embodied in the present treaty were reached as expeditiously as could have been hoped, as the Turkey been represented by men like Osman Nizami Pasha, Reschid Pasha, &c., who never were called plenipotentiaries.

As will be observed, the northern boundary of Eastern Thrace agreed to scarcely more than a confirmation of boundary and the Enos-Midia line of the Treaty of London which is referred to in article 10 of the Treaty of Constantinople, presumably to avoid explicit mention of the fact that a cession of Turkish territory has taken place, is entirely ignored.

As regards the stipulation to open debate within three weeks (article 2) doubts are entertained as to whether Turkey really intends to complete her demobilisation within that period. The Inspectorate Government of Western Thrace has been formed, with the co-operation and assistance of the Ottoman Government, and a large proportion of its members are Turkish irregulars in disguise. Its representatives have declared that it will resist any Bulgarian force sent to occupy the territory between the Maritza and the Mesta Karasou. It is difficult to conceive how any Bulgarian commander could engage in hostilities with the Western Thracian "militia" as long as there is a large Turkish army in the neighbourhood of Dedeotska. The cry of "Bulgarian atrocities" committed on Mussulmans would at once be raised, and the probability is that the Turkish army would instantly march to the assistance of their "Moslem brethren" in Western Thrace. The impression exists here that the movement in Western Thrace, in which the local Greeks have joined, was organised partly with the object of establishing autonomy in that region, and that it is now being used to bring pressure to bear on the Greek Government to accept the Turkish point of view as admitted by the Bulgarians, in the matters of Imbros, Vakoufs &c., if not indeed as regards the restoration of the Ægean Islands to Turkey.

Were the Ambassador of Western Thrace to become engaged in hostilities with Greece, now isolated owing to the re-occupations of Servia at the Albanian border, the financial assistance for which Djavid Bey recently made arrangements at Paris, would be withheld, and it is suspected that the Committee of Union and Progress is now meditating concluding peace with Greece on the terms imposed on Bulgaria, obtaining the money so urgently required by the Turkish treasury, meantime to

present anomalous state of things in Western Thrace would be kept up until the delivery of the Reshadieh from Messrs. Armstrong's yards would provide Turkey with a fighting unit capable of dealing with the Greek "Averoff," when a quarrel with Greece would be picked, and an advance made on Cavala and Salonica. The left wing of the committee is composed mainly of Salonicans, and they are more than anxious to see the Greeks turned out of that town. They would prefer the autonomy of Salonica with its Macedonian hinterland, or, failing such an arrangement, its coming under the rule of Bulgaria, which has the reputation of being the most tolerant State in the Balkans in its dealings with Jews, Protestants, Roman Catholics, &c. Much will depend on the result of the fresh negotiations between Greece and Turkey whose position has been much strengthened by the favourable terms imposed on Bulgaria.

Article 7 of the Treaty of Constantinople stipulates that the inhabitants of ceded territory origin shall be accorded a delay of four years to opt for Ottoman nationality and that during that period they shall not be subject to military service. There is no doubt that Turkey will insist on Greece accepting similar provisions as regards the inhabitants of Epirus, &c., large numbers of whom are established at Constantinople and elsewhere in Turkey.

Annexe No. 2 establishes a whole system of Mussulman administration in Bulgarian territory, the chief mufti and his subordinates receiving their imprimaturs from the Sheikh-ul-Islam at Constantinople. The stipulations of this annexe amount to more than a "concordat," as, indirectly, it gives the Turkish Government the right of interference in Moslem schools, &c., in Bulgaria.

Annexe No. 3 on arbitration seems hastily drawn up and might be found unworkable in practice.

Annexe No. 4 concerning the joint use of Mustapha Pasha-Adrianople-Dedeagatch Railway line is intended to get over the practical impossibility of direct railway communication between Bulgaria proper and the Ægean.

It is obviously in Turkey's best interests that she should establish solid and friendly relations with her Balkan neighbour, but the extreme committee press greets the Treaty of Peace in a different spirit, and urges its leaders to follow the advice of Gambetta not to talk of revenge against Bulgaria, but to think of it ceaselessly.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

[45869] No. 254.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 178.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 8, 1913.*

LATEST proposals of the Turkish Government are similar to terms of their treaty with Bulgaria, but not acceptable here. They reopen questions believed to have been settled in previous negotiations. Greek Government have made no comment on them, but have appointed committee of experts to report on them, as some points are highly technical.

The King leaves to-morrow for a round of inspection of troops in Macedonia.

(Confidential.)
Prime Minister tells me that it is not intended as a demonstration, but if Turkish negotiators prove intractable opportunity may be taken by means of an order of the day to emphasise the attitude of Greece.
(Sent to Constantinople.)

[45050] No. 255.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 116.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 8, 1913.*

THE Greek Minister called on the 29th ultimo to give to Sir A. Nicolson confidentially some information which had been communicated to his Government by a "foreign Government." It was to the effect that the Turkish negotiator, on his return to Athens, would propose that Greece should retrocede Chios and Mytilene to Turkey or should consent to all the islands in Greek occupation being constituted

into an autonomous group under the suzerainty of the Sultan. The Turks, M. Gennadius added, were concentrating large bodies of troops at Tcheshme, opposite to Chios, where the channel was barely two miles in width, and a passage could be effected under cover of the guns on the mainland. Mytilene was about six miles from the mainland, but it would be difficult for the Greek fleet to operate there, as if it left for those waters the Turkish fleet could leave the Dardanelles and assist in an attack on Cavalla. From information received not from a foreign Government but from a thoroughly trustworthy source, the Greek Government learnt that Turkey had arranged with Bulgaria that Cavalla should be taken from the Greeks and handed to Bulgaria on the condition that the latter should cede Dedeagatch to Turkey.

M. Gennadius has received instructions to speak on the above subjects, but he thought it his duty to inform Sir A. Nicolson. He asked what attitude the Powers would probably assume if such a proceeding on the part of Turkey, or whether they would insist on the fate of the islands being dealt with by them.

Sir A. Nicolson said that (1) His Majesty's Government would have to wait to see whether Turkey made the terms which M. Gennadius had mentioned, and (2) if so he did they would naturally have to consult with the other Powers.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[44716] No. 256.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 117.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 8, 1913.*

THE Greek Minister called on the 23rd ultimo to make the following communication:

The peace negotiations with Turkey had been practically agreed upon at Athens with Reshid Bey, except as regards (1) the islands in the Ægean Sea, and (2) the status of natives of those territories who were at present settled in Turkey. On both these points the Greek Government had clearly expressed their readiness to meet the wishes of Turkey. All they asked for was (1) a declaration of what were to be considered as vacant lands, and (2) some precise arrangement as to the class and generation of persons whose Turkish nationality was to be abolished. Reshid Bey left Athens on the 5th September and promised an answer on the two outstanding points at any early date.

Since then nothing more has been heard at Athens, and a flow of agitation was being sent from Constantinople from which it appeared that there was danger of Turkey deliberately delaying the conclusion of a definite peace for the purpose of armament. It was reported that troops and stores were being collected at various points on the littoral of the Sea of Marmora, and that gendarmerie soldiers were apparently being sent to Western Thrace in considerable numbers.

The Greek Government were most anxious to conclude a definite peace, and M. Gennadius was instructed to lay the above facts before me with an expression of the hope that His Majesty's Government might see their way to urge Turkey to settle finally with Greece and so bring the present rather indeterminate state to a close and allow of the demobilisation of armies and navies.

Sir E. Crowe, who received the Minister, said that he would lay his communication before me, and added that M. Gennadius might feel assured that His Majesty's Government were themselves naturally concerned at this indefinite prolongation of an at least technical state of war, which affected their trade and shipping not immaterially.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[45887] No. 257.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 9.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, October 6, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to advert to the question which forms the subject of Sir Rennell Rodd's despatches of the 2nd and 3rd

instant--of the possibility of an intention on the part of Italy to retain one or more of the Ægean islands.

2. I am to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that while my Lords fully appreciate the desirability of avoiding, in any public statement that may be made, any expressions which might be interpreted in Italy as implying doubt of the loyalty of Italian declarations, they trust that their objections to the retention by Italy of any of these islands, which are set forth in previous correspondence ending with Admiralty letter of the 24th June last, will continue to be borne in mind.

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

[46005] No. 258.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received October 9.*)

(No. 491.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 9, 1913.*

BELGRADE telegram No. 247 of 7th October.

Instigation from Bulgarian sources unnecessary in view of the fact that the powerful influence of Salonica Committee of Union and Progress is ready for adventurous policy that might lead to 'liberation' of Salonica from Greek rule and towards autonomy of Macedonia.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[46010] No. 259.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October 9.*)

(No. 490.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, October 9, 1913.*

The Envoy of Constantinople was received yesterday by the Sultan who sent cordial telegram of reply to letter of the King of the Bulgarians.

Bulgarian delegates having proposed further concessions to Moslem communities in Western Thrace on the matter of elected Moslem prefects (*Kaimakams*) and use of Turkish language in courts, representatives of the Government of Gumuldjina have left with proposals of entire acceptance, leaving population to Bulgarian rule.

Orders for evacuating vacated territory have been issued, but no date has been fixed for completion of same, and there are many difficulties.

(Sent to Sofia.)

[46213] No. 260.

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received October 11.*)

(No. 270.)
Sir, *Rome, October 8, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that in accordance with the telegraphic instructions received from you, I yesterday called on the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs and, in the course of the conversation, I referred to his Excellency the rumours which had reached His Majesty's Government regarding an alleged secret arrangement between Italy and Turkey for the eventual disposal of the Ægean islands. His Excellency expressed surprise that His Majesty's Government should for a moment give any credit to such rumours after the solemn assurances which his Excellency has already conveyed to you through Sir Rennell Rodd and the Marquis di Sant'Giuliano. His Excellency begged me to assure you once more that these rumours are pure inventions, lacking even the remote basis of fact by which such inventions are usually inspired, and he sincerely hopes that you will regard these and any similar rumours with the contempt which is absolutely merited.

The Marquis di Sant'Giuliano added that Italy had subscribed to the principle that no Great Power should benefit territorially by the present situation in the Near East, and intended to act loyally by that principle.

To-day's papers contain resumés of an article recently published in the 'Gaulois,' in which reference is made to a secret agreement between Turkey and Italy as regard

to the islands, followed by a communication from the official Stefani Agency emphatically stating that the 'Gaulois' announcement of the existence of such a secret arrangement is completely false. In commenting on the article, the 'Tribuna' observes that the story of a Turco-Italian secret agreement is so absurd as hardly to merit a denial. It regards the whole article as tendencious, and expresses great indignation at the suggestion contained therein that Italy should require five more years for the pacification of Libya.

I have, &c.
HERBERT G. DERING.

[46158] No. 261.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October 11.*)

(No. 180.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 11, 1913.*

THE Turkish delegate yesterday read to M. Venizelos telegram from the Grand Vizier saying that the Turkish Government wished to proceed with demobilisation and would be glad if orders were given to the Greek fleet not to interfere with transports going to bring away troops from Thrace. M. Venizelos replied that he gladly accepted this proof of the pacific intentions of the Turkish Government, but he told me confidently that he was not sure that what they wanted was not merely facilities for the transport of troops to other parts of the Ottoman Empire Arabia for instance. Actual demobilisation and cessation of requisitioning would be much more satisfactory symptom.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[46361] No. 262.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October 11.*)

(No. 181.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 11, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 10th October.

M. Venizelos suggested to Turkish delegate, failing direct agreement, questions at issue between Turkey and Greece should be referred for decision to one or all the Powers.

Question of the islands has never been directly raised. As to that the Greek Government are quite satisfied with the King's conversation with you recorded in your despatch No. 113.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[46364] No. 263.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October 11.*)

(No. 502.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 11, 1913.*

ATHENS telegram No. 180 of 10th October.

Demobilisation has certainly commenced, but there is reason to believe only eleven redif divisions in European Turkey are to disband.

Russian Ambassador does not think that general demobilisation will be carried out, and has information that large quantities of military material, &c. are still being sent into Eastern Thrace.

(Sent to Athens.)

[46529] No. 264.

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 838. Confidential.)

Sir, *Constantinople, October 5, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from the acting British consul general at Salonica reporting on Greek and Servian military movements.

I have, &c.

CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 264.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Mr Marling.

(No. 104. Confidential.)

Sir, *Salonica, September 29, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the 8th Greek division left here for Koritza on the 26th September last.

The movement of Servian troops through Salonica continues. It is expected that the last detachment will pass through to-morrow.

According to official Servian telegrams, Greek troops from Koritza are sent up to occupy districts to the south of Lake Prespa, which are evacuated for strategical reasons by Servians at the present moment. Greek official telegrams of to-day announce that Struga having been abandoned by the Serbs the inhabitants petitioned the Greek commander at Koritza to despatch troops to occupy that town and save it from Albanian aggression.

I have, &c.

JAMES MORGAN.

[46532] No. 265.

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey. (Received October 13.)

(No. 841. Confidential.)

Sir, *Constantinople, October 5, 1913.*

WITH reference to His Majesty's vice-consul at Monastir's despatch to Belgrade No. 3, Confidential, of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch from the acting British consul-general at Salonica reporting on the Albanian treaties and on Greco-Greek relations.

I have, &c.

CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 265.

Acting Consul General Morgan to Mr Marling.

(No. 103. Confidential.)

Sir, *Salonica, September 29, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that much uneasiness is manifested in Salonica, both on account of news of Albanian troubles and of uncertainty as to the Turkish attitude towards Greece.

The demobilisation of the Greek army, announced several weeks ago as imminent and then proclaimed in the local press as officially decreed some three weeks ago, has not yet taken place. Eight ships which for some two weeks have been lying in Salonica Bay waiting to take off troops have now received permission to leave, the demobilisation having been suspended for the time being. The officers commanding divisions, most of whom had left for Athens, have been recalled. The possibility of yet another war in the Balkans between Turks, aided by Bulgarians, and Greeks is entertained by all circles.

This possibility is not regarded with any great enthusiasm by the army.

Meanwhile, news from Xanthi and district continues to be of a reassuring character. Travellers from Dedeagatch report that law and order exist in the towns through which they pass. The continued passage of Turkish irregulars from the Marissa towards the west cannot, however, leave the Greeks indifferent to future possibilities.

The news from Albania continues to be of a serious nature. The encounters with Albanian bands near Gorica mentioned in my despatch No. 101 of the 27th September, are regarded as possessing very little significance in view of the serious nature of the fighting near Ipek and the Albanian advance towards Monastir.

In a despatch of the 20th September addressed by Mr Vice Consul Gregg to His Britannic Majesty's Legation at Belgrade, he reports that the Albanians attacked a small Serbian detachment at Pashkopeya, near Ipek, on 14th September, and destroyed it. Debra was occupied by the Albanians on the 22nd September, and the Serbian garrison and Christians retired towards Struga, having lost 300 to 400 men. Salonica reports put the Serbian losses at 2,000. At Debra Moslems and Christians made common cause with the Albanians, and the same state of affairs was observed at Debartsa, Kenar Hissar, and Krekevo, where the Bulgarians are in the majority.

Mr Gregg adds that it is rumoured that Austrian and Bulgarian officers are helping the Albanians, and that some Bulgarian volunteers are with them.

At the Serbian consulate here the opinion is expressed that the present crisis is not necessary due to Austrian manœuvres, further, here, that the despatch of one division is sufficient to put an end to the troubles.

The Serbian Government, with the permission of the Greek Government, is sending troops via Salonica to Monastir. The number announced is to be limited to pass through is put at 20,000. The despatch of these troops began on the morning of the 25th September. All goods traffic on the Uskub line, Monastir line has been suspended. The Greek Government has previously announced by note, has sent evzones to Florina to the number of 1,200. The troops expressed dissatisfaction to leave and were far from showing any eagerness for a new campaign.

I have, &c.

JAMES MORGAN.

[46534] No. 266.

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 843. Confidential.)

Sir, *Constantinople, October 6, 1913.*

I LEARN on good authority that a secret protocol providing for the annulment of marriages between Moslem women and girls and Christians and for the release of captured Moslem women, girls, and children was attached to the public treaty of the 29th September between Turkey and Bulgaria (enclosed in my despatch, No. 827 of the 30th September), and I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text thereof, which has been furnished to me confidentially.

It will be noticed that there is no reciprocity in this protocol, so that Christian women who have been married to Moslems do not benefit by it.

I have, &c.

CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 266.

Secret Protocol.

ARTICLE 1er. Tous les mariages contractés entre filles ou femmes musulmanes et des non-musulmans dès le début des hostilités seront nuls et non avenus.

Art. 2. Les filles, femmes et enfants capturés doivent être relâchés par les capteurs et réintegrés dans leurs foyers.

Art. 3. Des commissions d'enquête, dont chacune sera formée sous la présidence du Gouverneur local, du mufti, du maire de l'endroit et de deux notables musulmans

comme membres, seront chargés d'examiner les plaintes se rapportant aux articles 1er et 2 et de réintégrer à leurs foyers les personnes y mentionnées.

Art. 4. Le présent protocole n'est pas destiné à être publié. Toutefois, chacune des parties contractantes a le droit de le produire lorsqu'elle le jugera utile.

Le 9 (22) *septembre*, 1913.

[46565] No. 267

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 167.)

Sir, *Bucharest, October* 7, 1913.

I VISITED M. Maiorescu, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, at Sinaia yesterday on my return from leave, and, in view of the information contained in Mr. Crackanthorpe's telegrams Nos. 243 and 246 of the 4th instant, enquired of his Excellency whether Roumania had given any warning at Sophia or Constantinople. His Excellency replied in the negative, and said that he did not believe the story that there was a secret agreement between Turkey and Bulgaria against Greece and Servia. Nevertheless M. Derussi, the new Roumanian Minister at Sophia, would be instructed when taking up his post a few days hence to give Bulgaria a friendly language to understand that if she attempted to upset the Treaty of Bucharest she would find Roumania barring the way.

His Excellency said he would say nothing at Constantinople. The situation between Turkey and Greece was threatening, but though in ordinary times friendly counsels from Roumania would carry weight he was not disposed to give them at this moment, for reports of an interview given by M. Take Jonescu in Paris had given offence in Constantinople and Roumania's advice might therefore not be well received. As regards Athens, on the other hand, his Excellency intended to instruct the Roumanian Minister to advise M. Venizelos in a friendly manner to moderate Greek pretensions.

After seeing M. Maiorescu I met the French Chargé d'Affaires, who told me that when he had last seen M. Maiorescu on the 4th instant his Excellency had evinced considerable anxiety regarding the Turco-Greek differences, and that his Excellency had invited him as well as the German Chargé d'Affaires to telegraph to their Governments recommending strong pressure at Athens with a view to bringing the Greek Government to reduce its demands.

I have, &c.
G. BARCLAY.

[46575] No. 268.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 128.)

Sir, *Belgrade, October* 10, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two despatches which have been addressed to me by His Majesty's vice-consul at Monastir on the subjects:—

1. Of the developments connected with the uprising (Nos. 3 and 5).
2. The steps being taken towards the abolition of non-Servian schools in the Monastir district.

I have, &c.
DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 268.

Vice-Consul Greig to Mr. Crackanthorpe.

(No. 3. Confidential.)

Sir, *Monastir, September* 28, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram No. 33 of the 27th instant, reporting that Pogratets (Starovo), Kichevo, Struga, and Ochrida have been abandoned by the Servian officials in view of the advance of the Albanians and the threatening attitude

of the local population, which is mostly Bulgarian, and that further Greek reinforcements have been sent towards Gorcha, which is said to be threatened by another Albanian gathering from Elbassan.

On the 27th instant the 11th regiment arrived here by train, via Soloun[illegible], with a machine-gun company and a battery of field guns and about 300 [illegible] of the 1st regiment. They at once proceeded towards Gjavat, a point about 15 miles west by north of Monastir which is the key to the Resna-Struga road. The regiment was only about [illegible] strong, and there was an average of [illegible] officer per company.

It is understood that for the present a defensive position is being taken up at Gjavat, where the following troops are probably assembled:—

Three hundred men of the 16th regiment with a machine-gun company.

Seven hundred and fifty men of the [illegible] regiment with [illegible] machine-gun company.

Three batteries of [illegible] regiment, with about 350 [illegible], and [illegible] of the [illegible] troops [illegible] strength.

The Servian officials on leaving [illegible] Struga [illegible] invited the inhabitants to accompany them. [illegible] which is further evidence of the [illegible] existing between the Bulgarian and [illegible] elements.

[illegible] Elbassan is [illegible] to be taking an active part in directing the Albanian operations.

The staff of [illegible] is reported [illegible] and [illegible] to proceed [illegible]. The Greeks [illegible] with the intention of occupying Pogradets [illegible] extremity of Lake Ochrida [illegible] have always [illegible] occupied by [illegible] Serbs [illegible] between the Greeks and Serbs.

Sent to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
C. A. GREIG.

Enclosure 2 in No. 268.

Vice-Consul Greig to Mr. Crackanthorpe.

(No. 5. Confidential.)

Sir, *Monastir, September* 28, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that the annexation of Monastir has been followed by [illegible] steps towards the abolition, [illegible] contemplated, of the non-Servian schools.

An inspector recently sent from the Ministry of Public Instruction has given formal notice that in future the elementary schools for children [illegible] years of age are to be exclusively Servian. [illegible] the Director of the [illegible] Schools to apply [illegible] for instruction in [illegible]. Both the Greek and the Roumanian, or rather Vlach, communities [illegible] that their educational privileges [illegible] safeguarded [illegible] agreements between the Greek and Roumanian Governments and Servia, and the new measures have produced very strong feeling. The [illegible] Monastir and the general misery caused by their administration are [illegible] the Servian [illegible] is bitterly [illegible] that [illegible] being [illegible]. The [illegible] consul [illegible] pointed out to the prefect [illegible] the action of the inspector amounts to a contravention of existing agreements. He was told that consuls no longer have the right to interfere in political questions. He has since left for Bucharest and his departure is probably connected with this matter.

Servian interference in the affairs of the [illegible] communities has been carried still further. On the [illegible] instant the Greek Metropolitan was requested to hand over to the authorities the [illegible] of his community and the keys of its establishments, on the ground that the whole population is Servian and should benefit equally by them. He has replied that he cannot comply before receiving instructions from the Patriarch.

The [illegible] and Jewish schools are at present carrying on their usual work in both [illegible] and advanced classes.

Sent to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
C. A. GREIG.

Enclosure 3 in No. 268

Lieut.-Colonel Cuinet to Mr. Crackanthorpe

(No.) Confidential

Monastir, October 3, 1913.

Sir,

In my telegram No. [illegible], which I had the honour to address to His Majesty's Legation on the 30th September, I was reported that Servian troops had reoccupied Ochrida, that Servian cultivators were converging on Dibra by way of Kicnevo and Gostivar, and that the local branch of the Servian National Bank was sending away its supplies of money.

The severe stress, approaching to panic, which prompted the action of the National Bank, was general amongst the Servian officials in this district. It is certain that they entertained serious misgivings as to the safety of Monastir itself, where the garrison was reduced to a few score soldiers and locally recruited town guards. An incursion of Bulgar Albanians would have been an active support of the Bulgarian element, and probably a large number of Moslems, whereas the authorities would not have had even a passive sympathy of a single inhabitant.

Many of the officials sent away their families to Salonica.

The despatch of reinforcements to Monastir and the Servian advance on Dibra from the north enabled the force assembled at Struga, as reported in my despatch No. 3 of the 28th September, to assume the offensive and retake Ochrida. The town and neighbourhood of Struga had been occupied for three days by a Bulgar Albanian band of about 6,000 men, under the Voyvode Petre Petroff, who disarmed the Servian archives, raised the Bulgarian flag, formed a local council of Moslems and Christians, and appointed as president for Moslems Albanian notable named Youssef Bey. The returning Servian officials were received by the local chiefs with every sign of joy. On the approach of the returning Servians the population evacuated without any serious attempt at resistance, many of the Albanians in fear of reprisals taking flight at the same time in boats to Struga, which occupies the shore of the lake.

As reported in my telegram No. 75 of the 2nd instant, Struga, Kicheva, and Dibra have now been reoccupied, and I am officially informed that a start was taken on the 1st instant after three days' rest in the meantime as regards the Kicheva-Dibra and Gostivar (between Gostivar and Dibra). Details of the fighting are lacking here. According to Servian accounts, the enterprise was well and skilfully planned, and adopted, contrary to their previous habits, the tactics of regular warfare. The Servian officers persist in declaring that their movements were directed by Austrian and Bulgarian officers. But from Albanian sources I learn that there were amongst them many Young Turk officers who had served in the Turkish garrisons. This may be the explanation of their method of attack. They used mountain artillery in the engagements between Gostivar and Dibra. The Servians claim to have captured three of their guns, but these, they say, all belonged to the Servian garrison at Dibra.

The Prefect of Monastir informs me that the Servian districts are now free of Albanians, the hordes which penetrated to Struga and Ochrida having retired towards Elbassan, whilst the contingent, estimated at 1,000 men, has withdrawn from Dibra to the mountains west of the Black Drin. The Servian officials have returned to all the reoccupied places.

Ogradets (Starova), however, would appear not to have been reoccupied by the Serbs. Two sergeants are reported to have been despatched there from Struga, but accordingly all accounts, the place now contains a Greek garrison sent from Koritza.

Several Bulgarian villages in the Dibra and Ochrida-Struga districts are reported to have been pillaged and destroyed in the course of the recent events. The authorities state that this is the work of the Albanians who got out of hand and robbed even their allies, which is likely enough. Unfortunately, there is reason to fear that in many places the officials Servian bands whose depredations were reported in my despatch No. 57 of the 5th September to His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, have found a profitable opportunity to wholesale robbery and outrage. This seems to have been particularly the case amongst Moslem villages in the district of Kruševo, where these depredations were carried out at the instigation of the official authorities. Zlatari, again (with Kruševo), are reported to have been visited with wholesale slaughter and murder by the band of the locally recognised Voyvode Jegova.* Zayas, north of Kicheva, and Sopotsko, south of Kicheva, are believed to

* Some of the outrages previously perpetrated by this notorious were reported on pp. 2 and 3 of my despatch No. 57 of the 5th September to His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

have been partly burnt. Arbinesht and Brailovqua, the same region, to have been plundered by similar bands. The Prefect, however, assures me that any harm which may have befallen these places is the outcome of attempted insurrection.

The Servian authorities here make no secret of their intention to exact a bloody vengeance from the Albanians and their supporters. Talk of the permanent occupation of strategic points in Albania beyond their present limits as a general safeguard is being heard of, an expedition to Durazzo.

It is difficult to see what advantages the Servians would secure by pushing forward their boundaries in Albania, where their presence would be a standing challenge and the protection of their communications would be a permanent and costly addition to the military burdens by which they will be for years to come exhausted.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

I have, &c.
C. A. GREIG

[46361] No. 269

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 15, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 181 of 11th October.

What I said to the King of Greece was of course *entirely informal* and must not be construed as a formal communication made on behalf of the Powers and constituting an obligation on the part of the Powers towards Greece.

It must not however be supposed from this that His Majesty's Government have in any way changed their own view about the Islands.

[45964.] No. 270

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Bertie.

(No. 194.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 15, 1913.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires informed Sir A. Nicolson to-day that the Greek Government had enquired at St. Petersburgh whether the three Powers of the Triple Entente would not decidedly advise at Constantinople that they would not permit a fresh outbreak of hostilities. The Russian Government desired to know whether His Majesty's Government had received such an enquiry and what their views were.

Sir A. Nicolson told M. de Etter that I had been approached in that matter, but (1) any steps which might possibly be taken at Constantinople would have to be taken by all, or not at all, the Three Powers alone; (2) we should place ourselves in a ridiculous position solely to announce that a war would not be permitted, if there were no sign that war was contemplated.

M. de Etter said that the German Minister for Foreign Affairs had said to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin that apparently Turkey was irritated with her Adriatic policy of coercion, and might take action against Greece, and that there was nothing to be feared but let her do so at her own risk. Sir A. Nicolson said that it was clear that no Power would wish to engage Turkey by force to assist a front attack against Greece, and the best thing there was not to make empty threats. He told M. de Etter that I had privately intimated to Turkey that in the interests of British commerce and shipping, I hoped peace with Greece would soon be concluded.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[46805] No. 271

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. (Received October 14.)

(No. 186.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 14, 1913.*

M. VENIZELOS had just communicated your statement to the King of Greece in the sense given in your telegram No. 136 of 13th October.

[46820] No. 272

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 504.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 11, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 502 of 20th July.

The Kutso-Vlach senator Batsaria Effendi, Ottoman delegate in London last spring, and former organiser of bands in Macedonia, advocates in the Young Turk Committee newspaper autonomous Macedonia under the control of the Great Powers as the only solution of that problem, while other Committee organs are urging the Government to pursue that aim by means of direct negotiation with Greece.

In view of the recent events in Albania, autonomy for Macedonia seems destined to lend to further complications.

It is rumoured that the 'Provisional Government of Western Thrace' is about to dissolve as a result of hostile struggle with Bulgarian authorities. Announcement seems inconsistent with hitherto generally loyal attitude of that Government, but it is worth noting that the occupation by Bulgarians of those districts would close the road to Greece, and necessitate Turkish negotiation to compel Greece to accept her terms by an equivalent access policy by Bulgaria, with the complicity of Bulgaria, which seems disposed to Roumanian rival's policy to gain.—No. 476 of 21st September.

After this success over Bulgaria Turkish Government will almost certainly refuse to agree to cession of Thrace and Adrianople. It is possible that they may come to terms directly with Greece on the basis of the latter's cession of some of the islands now occupied by Italy.

Government's negotiating or helping principle policy towards Greece and has, for instance prevented fitting of Hellenic submarines.

(Sent to Athens, Sofia, Belgrade, and Bucharest.)

[46823] No. 273

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 505.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 11, 1913.*

FRENCH Government are negotiating for purchase in Italy of two warships, the Vittorio Veneto and Dante Alighieri, before outbreak of Italian war and requisitioned by Italian Government, and whether suitable for the Black Sea.

Presumably steps will not be taken in event of definite signature of peace with Greece and Italy as proposed in order to avoid unsettled state of affairs in islands.

[46974] No. 274

Sir C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—Received October 15.

(No. 180. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 17, 1913.*

CONSTANTINO L. telegram No. 501 of 13th October, at end of penultimate paragraph.

King recently, in course of new interview, expressed his scepticism as to any aggressive designs of Bulgaria or agreement with Turkey at present, though there might be an agreement between the two Governments by which Bulgaria has promised free passage for Turkish troops to Greece. His Majesty seems to regard this with comparative equanimity, as he hardly believes there is cause of assistance from Bulgaria against Greece would in itself cause Roumania to move.

Sent to Constantinople, Athens, Sophia and Belgrade.

[46972] No. 275

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 15, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 217 of 7th October and Constantinople telegram No. 499 of 9th October.

View of Servian Government is that Bulgaria, by remaining passive owing to attitude of Roumania, would be in a position to turn on Turkey in case of Turkish reverse at hands of Greece and Servia, and recover territory ceded under Treaty of Constantinople and that she would not hesitate to do so if an opportunity offered.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[47128] No. 276

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 184.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 16, 1913.*

GREEK Minister for Foreign Affairs says that meeting yesterday with Turkish delegates was satisfactory, agreement having been reached on several points. Greeks pointed out in the assembly that Turkish demands concerning Vlachs and Islands involved points that had been settled by Treaty with regard to which country.

Sent to Constantinople.

47279 No. 277

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) *Servian Sofia, October 17, 1913.*

BULGARIAN occupation of Thrace began yesterday, Drama, 48 hours, total 85,000 proceeding towards Dedeagatch, Porto Lagos, Xanthi.

[47319] No. 278

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 284.)
Sir, *Rome, October 14, 1913.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 249 of the 9th instant reporting a conversation between Sir Francis Elliot and M. Venizelos on the subject of the annexation of Crete by Greece, I have the honour to report that I mentioned the matter to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning and asked whether the Italian Government would be willing to take joint action with the other protecting Powers in recognising the *de facto* Government of Crete which would probably facilitate the procedure of the Greek Government in declaring the annexation of the island. I understand his Excellency will speak in conversation with His Majesty's Minister respecting the recognition of the existing administration, and of course that no grounds should exist to object to its solely transitional character, of the proposed Kingdom of Greece.

Marquis di San Giuliano replied that for him the Cretan question was practically settled, and that he was quite willing to concert in taking joint action as suggested provided that the protecting Powers were in agreement.

I have, &c.
HERBERT G. DERING.

[47786] No. 279

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 510.)
(Telegraphic.) K. *Constantinople, October 20, 1913.*

BEYOND his missing some reservists, Enver has been lone arbiter of matter of demobilisation, which, according to article 2 of the Treaty of Constantinople, should have been completed today. Fresh troops have, in fact, been sent to the front during the past week. Despite article 7 of the same treaty Bulgarian population in Western Thrace is being steadily "emanated" by Turkish Ottoman authorities. Central Government has also been despatching provisions and ammunition to "militia" of the Provisional Government of Western Thrace.

Zone of Government in last few days has become more peaceful as regards the settlement with Greece

(Sent to Athens and Sophia

[47823] No. 280.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received October 21*)

(No. 235.)

Sir, *Athens, October 15, 1913.*

ON the 3rd instant M. Panas the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed me that the Greek Government had withdrawn their small detachment from Demeagatch, having previously notified the Powers that they were about to do so, for which reason I did not report the fact by telegraph. The detachments at Macri and Porto Lagos had been withdrawn a day or two earlier. The immediate cause of the withdrawal was the receipt by the Greek Bishop of Dedeagatch of a communication from the Turkish Commissariat at Xanthia, threatening the place with destruction if the Greek forces did not leave. In order to avoid the occurrence of any incident which might aggravate the already strained relations between Greece and Turkey the Greek Government who had received a hint to this effect from the Powers in the question of Dedeagatch, beyond recommendations to Bulgaria which it was impossible for her to execute, to occupy the town, brought away their men.

The Greek Government are perfectly aware of the number of Turkish regular troops who have been sent to Thrace disguised as peasants. These troops have, however, up to the present not come in contact with the Greek forces, notwithstanding newspaper reports to the contrary. The distribution of the Greek forces has been reported in several despatches by His Majesty's acting Consul-General at Salonica.

If attacked by Turkey alone, the Greek General Staff is confident of making a victorious resistance even without the help of Servia, which is bound by agreement to come to the assistance of Greece. If Bulgaria joins in, Roumania is expected to enforce respect for the Treaty of Bucharest.

The King, who left for Salonica on the 7th, began his round of inspection by issuing the following order of the day:

'A year has passed since you were called to arms to defend the rights and the honour of Greece, and during that year, surpassing all expectations, you have given to the Greek State countries of which nobody dreamt in so short a time, offering your all upon the altar of patriotism, life, property, health. After so many dangers, sufferings, and hardships, would it be right that you should rest? But I still have need of you to secure what you have so bravely won. You know as well my fellow campaigners, and therefore despite all your cravings to see your homes again, you remain faithful, brave, and resolute guardians of your King and country. I am glad to retain among such an army.'

After completing his inspection of troops in Northern and Eastern Macedonia His Majesty is expected to return to Athens on the 20th instant.

In the meantime the negotiations with Turkey have made no progress. The Turkish proposals brought by Hamdi Bey Abro, the delegate who replaced Rechad Bey as colleague of Ghalib Bey Kheiral, reopened a number of points upon which an agreement had previously been reached, as can be proved, M. Panas says, from letters in his possession from Chakir Bey himself. The Turkish terms are practically the same as were imposed upon a defeated and exhausted Bulgaria, but neither the Government nor the people of Greece are disposed to accept them. Since some of them especially those relating to the Vacoufs, are intricate and technical, they have been referred to a committee of experts to examine and report upon them.

The Greek Government are not likely to be unreasonable, as they are most anxious to obtain peace and to be relieved from a strain upon their resources which they will not be able to endure much longer without damage to their financial position. But they are not ready to make any concession on the question of the islands, which the Turkish Government have never directly raised with them, but which is felt to be the point of most danger. The Greek Government claim for the islands in Greek occupation, except Imbros and Tenedos, were finally assigned to them by a decision of the Ambassadors in London, which gives them a definite title. More than that, they are

in possession, and believe the Turks cannot turn them out by sea, nor by pressure put on them by defeating them on land.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT

[47963] No. 281

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received October 21.*)

(No. 185.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 21, 1912.*

I LEARN that Greek Government has made considerable concessions on minor points, and that Prime Minister is confident of early and satisfactory settlement with Turkey.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[47968] No. 282

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received October 21.*)

(No. 312.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 21, 1912.*

MY telegram No. 310 of 20th October.

A distinct *détente* has followed an arrangement on the nationality question with Greece. Chakir Bey a native of Thrace stated yesterday that an agreement for the reoccupation of Thrace has been reached between the Ottoman Government and General Savof on the lines indicated in my telegram No. 300 of 9th October, with additions that local gendarmerie and police are to be recruited on the spot.

Demobilisation appears to have begun in earnest.

(Sent to Athens and Sophia.)

[48163] No. 283

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received October 23.*)

(No. 236.)

Sir, *Athens, October 17, 1912.*

M. PANAS, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, told me yesterday that the Mixed Commission for the delimitation of the frontier between the Greek and Bulgarian territories had completed its labours except in the neighbourhood of Xanthi, where the presence of the forces of the Xanthi Mohammedan Government of Thrace rendered it materially impossible. He said that no difficulties had arisen, the Bulgarian delegates having met their Greek colleagues in a conciliatory spirit.

The delimitation of the frontier with Servia has also been completed, except perhaps as regards some villages near Florina, as to which M. Panas was not quite sure.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT

[48303] No. 284

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received October 24.*)

(No. 186.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 24, 1912.*

GRECO-TURKISH negotiations.

Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that agreement has been practically reached on all points between the delegates, and that nothing is wanting but the sanction of the Porte to draw up and sign an Instrument. He suggests that representations at Constantinople against the delay might be useful.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[48634] No. 285

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey (Received October 25.)

(No. 372.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, October 25, 1913.*

SANTHI and Gumuljina are to be reoccupied to-day and Dedeagatch on 29th October. No incidents reported.

[48623] No. 286.

Sir L. Mallet to Sir Edward Grey (Received October 25.)

(No. 517.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 25, 1913.*

Mr. MARLINGS telegram No. 511 of 20th October.

I spoke to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day of the urgency of increasing number of convoys of merchant vessels through the Dardanelles. His Highness said that the Ottoman Government were most anxious to do this and were only awaiting final conclusion of discussions with Greece. I said that I thought that the negotiations were sufficiently advanced to admit of an immediate return to former arrangement and his Highness replied that he fully realised the importance which His Majesty's Government attached to the matter, and again assured me that the convoys would be increased shortly after settlement was arrived at.

[48915 No. 287

Sir L. Mallet to Sir Edward Grey (Received October 27.)

(No. 525.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 27, 1913.*

ADMIRAL LIMPUS called to inform me that the Turkish Government are seriously perturbed at the report that the Greek Government are negotiating for the purchase in the Brazilian Government of the battle-ship "Rio de Janeiro" now building at Armstrongs. If the Greek Government make this purchase the Turkish Government will be obliged to buy another vessel, possibly the "Liberdade" building for Chile. I said that competition of this kind would be deplorable and enquired whether torpedo-boat flotilla would not be quite sufficient for defensive purposes. Admiral Limpus replied that a flotilla would be quite useless. He could not say what the Turkish Government would do if the Greeks take the ships. Dreadnoughts, he assured me, are kept ahead of them. It is apparently a case of two keels to one ironclad. The Turkish Government will not, I think, advance the subject.

Object of my visit was to enquire whether His Majesty's Government would not yet "do something" to help us.

I regret I was forced all the more deeply by the Russian Government have also been negotiating for the purchase of the "Rio de Janeiro," and that the Greeks were greatly exercised to-day by the report that the Turks would get her.

48934 No. 288

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey (Received October 28.)

(No. 198.)
Sir, *Belgrade, October 23, 1913.*

I LEARN that the Servian Government has been sounding the Bulgarian Government in regard to a resumption of diplomatic relations, and is now awaiting a reply to these overtures.

With regard to a resumption of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Servia, I understand that negotiations are likely to begin at Constantinople on the conclusion of the Greco-Turkish negotiations, and that the main difficulty will probably arise over the Vassouf question, the Servian Government being not at all prepared to accede to the probable Turkish demand that this question should be settled on the lines of the treaty with Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[49024] No. 289

Note communicated by French Embassy, October 28, 1913.

A la date du 20 septembre dernier le Chargé d'Affaires de France avait transmis à son Excellence le Secrétaire d'Etat une proposition du Gouvernement de la république tendant à l'ajournement jusqu'à la fin d'octobre, des séances de la Commission financière internationale des Affaires balkaniques, et Sir Edward Grey avait bien voulu accepter cette proposition.

Le retard apporté au règlement définitif des affaires pendantes entre les États directement engagés dans ces affaires balkaniques oblige le Gouvernement français à proposer un nouvel ajournement des séances de cette Commission.

Le Chargé d'Affaires de France a donc été invité à transmettre au Secrétaire d'Etat la proposition d'ajourner la reprise des séances de la Commission internationale des Affaires balkaniques. La date de cette reprise pourrait être fixée d'accord entre les Puissances intéressées lorsque les circonstances le permettront.

Ambassade de France, Londres,
le 27 octobre, 1913.

[47873 No. 290.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Dering.

(No. 290.
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 29, 1913.*

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires put to Sir E. Crowe on the 24th October the two following questions which he was instructed to ask for my answers:—

1. Does the British Government consider that the question of the islands has been definitely settled so far as the Six Powers are concerned, by the Ambassadors' Conference and in what sense?

2. What would be the attitude of the British Government if Turkey should succeed in recovering some of the islands at present occupied by Greece?

Sir E. Crowe said that as these questions raised somewhat grave issues he could not be expected offhand to answer them, and that all he could do was to refer them to me.

In the course of some further conversation on the subject, Sir E. Crowe observed that the Italian Government were anxious to get us to urge the British Government to say what was decided at the Ambassadors' Conference. Sir E. Crowe's own impression, he said, was that the views of the Conference on the question of the islands were known to the press, and definitely decided upon, and approved by the Six Governments, except to the extent that the Bulgarian vessels of war the Six Powers had formally assented, without authority to decide the ultimate fate of all the islands. Nor was there Sir E. Crowe thought any doubt that all the Powers had accepted the solution of letting all the islands, except two or three specified (Tenedos, Imbros, Lemnos, Samothrace), go to Greece under certain reservations to be dealt with separately by several of the Great Powers. Whilst Sir E. Crowe believed that all these various reservations were practically disposed of or allowed to remain good in the course of the further discussion, the result was not explicitly recorded in precisely that form. So far as Great Britain was concerned, I did not doubt that she considered the transfer of the islands with the one exception mentioned to Greece as the only real solution, and when the question of Asia Minor was considered, and the question arose of drawing a line which would involve the abandonment by Greece of Koritza and a large part of northern Epirus, I had explicitly stated that, if I agreed to call upon Greece to make this sacrifice, it was on the understanding that she would be compensated by receiving the islands.

As regards Prinkipo, Sir E. Crowe said that the latest indications of Turkish policy made it appear unlikely that any attempt would be made to wrest the islands from Greece. In these circumstances, it might well appear to be unnecessary to define precisely the attitude of the British Government in a contingency which did not arise, which was not expected just now to arise, and which, if it arose, would be likely to do so in circumstances that could not, at present be accurately foreseen.

Prince Borghese finally referred to the islands in Italian occupation. He had, on several occasions lately received instructions to repeat to us the assurances already given by his Government in various forms that Italy would adhere to her solemn pledges. He had acted on these instructions, and had explained to the Marquis di San Giuliano that, in his opinion, there was no need to repeat these assurances, as he felt sure the British Government did not belong to those who doubted the good faith and honour of the Italian Government in this matter.

Sir E. Crowe said that I had made it quite clear in my speech in the House of Commons that His Majesty's Government have full confidence in the loyal attitude of Italy, and in the faith of her pledged word. Since then, we had made several communications to the Italian Government through our embassy at Rome, breathing the same spirit of absolute confidence, and Sir E. Crowe understood from the Marquis di San Giuliano's answers to those communications that this attitude of the British Government was appreciated.

Prince Borghese, in thanking Sir E. Crowe for telling him of the latest of our communications at Rome, said this confirmed him in the impression that there was no need for him to give effect to his instructions on this point. He said he had only mentioned the matter to me on account of the constant reference to alleged Italian designs in the press, including the Times.

Sir E. Crowe observed that if the Italian Government were anxious to put an end to the newspaper talk of this kind, they might do well to stop the mouth of their own rather indiscreet officials, and he referred to the extraordinary speech reported recently to have been made at Rhodes by General Ameglio. It was utterances of this kind, which fed the suspicions of journalists and the sceptical public.

Prince Borghese admitted that these "terribile generale" did a lot of mischief.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[48214] No. 291

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Dering.

(No. 202.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 29, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 261 of to-day's date, Sir E. Crowe, by my instructions, gave to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires on the 20th October the following reply to the two questions which he had put to me on the 14th instant:—

1. The view of the British Government as to the decisions arrived at by the Ambassadors' Conference respecting the islands is that while it was agreed to assign Koritza and neighbouring districts to Albania, this was on the distinct understanding that all the islands except Imbros and Tenedos (Tenedos would go to Greece). If any attempt was now to be made to modify this settlement so far as the islands were concerned, it would be open to any of the six Powers to demand the reopening and reconsideration of their decision as regards the Southern Albanian frontier.

2. If the contingency, not at present probable, should arise of Turkey reoccupying by force the islands of Chios and Mitylene, the British Government would expect all the six Powers to deliberate and determine in common what action should be taken.

Sir E. Crowe also made clear to Prince Borghese that on point (1) the understanding was, of course, only *inter se* between the Powers. They never communicated any formal resolution to Greece or Turkey or to anyone, so that it is only as between the Powers that any understanding exists.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[49530] No. 292

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey. (Received October 31.)

(No. 188. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 31, 1913.*

THE Swedish Minister told me last night that he was under the impression that the Italian Government are encouraging the Turkish Government not to hasten the conclusion of the peace negotiations with Greece. He is confirmed in the opinion by an observation which the Secretary-General of the Foreign Office here let slip recently in conversation with him, to the effect that it was all to the advantage of Italy that Greece should be embarrassed.

I should be inclined to think that the Secretary-General's remark was made possibly in connection with the Southern Albanian frontier, but the Swedish Minister suspects that Italy has other negotiations in hand with Turkey and that the Secretary-General's remarks was an indiscretion.

[49786] No. 293.

Sir L. Mallet to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 889.)
Sir, *Constantinople, October 28, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's consul at Adrianople reporting the commencement of the occupation of Western Thrace by Bulgarian troops.

I have, &c.
LOUIS MALLET

Enclosure in No. 293.

Consul Samson to Sir L. Mallet.

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Adrianople, October 25, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the occupation by the Bulgarian forces of that portion of the vilayet which was recently become Bulgarian territory commenced on the 21st instant, on which date Mustapha Pasha was occupied. The town itself, however, no longer exists, having been entirely destroyed by the Turkish troops before evacuating it. The Moslem inhabitants have been transferred to the village of Yeniköi, south-east of Mustapha Pasha, where, I understand, the head-quarters of a new kaza are to be established for them.

The town of Orlanco is said to have been occupied at 4 A.M. on the 22nd October. The contradictory reports circulating on this subject make it impossible to arrive at any definite information on this point, though any information is to the effect that the occupation has actually taken place.

It is stated that the town remains intact, but that all the live stock belonging to the inhabitants has been removed by the Turkish troops. An encounter between Turkish irregulars and the Bulgarian troops as reported to have taken place near Kossukavak, but does not appear to have been of a very serious nature.

I have, &c.
L. L. B. SAMSON, *Major.*

[49798] No. 294

Sir L. Mallet to Sir Edward Grey. (Received November 3.)

(No. 891.)
Sir, *Constantinople, October 29, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from the acting British consul-general at Salonica reporting on the situation at Xanthi and on the departure of the King of Greece from Salonica for Drama and Cavalla.

I have, &c.
LOUIS MALLET

Enclosure in No. 294.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Mr. Marling.

(No. 110. Confidential.)
Sir, *Salonica, October 14, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that travellers from Xanthi inform me that all is quiet in that town. The local authorities who have proclaimed the autonomy of that

town treat the local inhabitants and foreigners with the greatest consideration. Neither the local authorities nor the Moslem inhabitants have any animus against Greeks, and the latter are now engaged in returning with their families to their homes in the autonomous regions. So pleased are the inhabitants of these regions with their new regime that they wish to extend their territory so as to include Adrianople when they wish to make their capital.

Their hatred of Bulgarians continues, and they will resist all attempts to impose Bulgarian rule on them.

'Arnaout irregulars' still continue to arrive at Xanthi, coming from the direction of Gumuljina, and to bivouac for the night in the hills north of the town, where occasional fights with Bulgarian bands take place.

Professional couriers between the authorities of Gumuljina and Xanthi and the regular 'mail' service by boat to Mustafa Scala for the goods trains arriving at Xanthi, convey each week from sixty to two hundred Turkish army officers and non-commissioned officers for the irregulars.'

'Railway trains are in the habit of trucks from Dedeagatch to Constantinople as far as the Greek military frontier, the regular trains and local rolling stock including 8 Bulgarian engines and over 300 trucks, Bulgarian and others, being found between Dedeagatch and Drama. A passenger train is allowed by the Greek authorities to leave Salonica for Dedeagatch once a week for Dedeagatch and return, but no other trains are allowed to pass the Greek frontier.'

Vice-Consul Hogg reports that on Saturday last 11th October a goods train arrived at Xanthi from Dedeagatch, the Turkish Bulgarian frontier being closed.

Whatever may be the sentiments of the Turkish regulars and of the irregulars from beyond the Maritza, the sentiment of the local inhabitants of the Xanthi sanjak is distinctly favourable to Greece. They have many memories of Greek rule, and are well aware that with Greece everything will go with great regularity, whereas they dread the prospect of having to struggle with Bulgarian rule and misgovernment.

On the Greek side of the frontier the preparations for war are complete. Marshal Savvas Pasha Vassos, Commander-in-Chief of the Greek forces, has established his headquarters at Drama, and has left Cavalla, Seres and other points. The greater part of the troops stationed at Cavalla, Seres and Drama have been withdrawn from those places and have been concentrated at Salonica, for the purpose of forming the Greek army of operations against Bulgaria.

His Majesty the King of the Hellenes left Salonica on Sunday morning, 12th October, for the front. He was greeted on his arrival at the station by the garrison of Salonica, composed of all the troops that could be spared after the reserves had been called out for mobilization. His Majesty addressed the troops after the review, thanked them for their splendid conduct in mobilization, assured them that the country fully recognized the sacrifices they were making at the present time, and expressed confidence in the ultimate victory of the Greek arms. He referred to the gravity of the situation in the Balkans.

At the conclusion of his address to the troops, the King thanked them for their efforts in the past and warned them that they would have to make further efforts in the future, and that they should be prepared at any moment to safeguard with their lives the honour of Greece.

His Majesty the King was accompanied by Captain Desmazes, Chief of the Greek Staff, Admiral Kondouriotis, the Minister of War, and Commandos. On his return to Salonica he left for Athens at 7.30 P.M. the same evening.

On the 17th October, a telegram was received from Athens stating that the Greek squadron had left Salonica on the previous day for the Gulf of Orfano, and would be followed by the King's yacht, which would arrive at Kavalla on the 18th October, and would be met there by the Crown Prince and the Greek military authorities.

The following are the names of the Turkish Generals and Staff officers who have been captured by the Greeks:—

Fuad Pasha, Commander of the Turkish 3rd Army Corps, Chief of the General Staff; Ali Riza Bey, Chief of the Operations Section; Ismail Hakki Bey, Chief of the Intelligence Section; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 17th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 18th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 19th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 20th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 21st Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 22nd Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 23rd Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 24th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 25th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 26th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 27th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 28th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 29th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 30th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 31st Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 32nd Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 33rd Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 34th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 35th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 36th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 37th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 38th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 39th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 40th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 41st Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 42nd Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 43rd Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 44th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 45th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 46th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 47th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 48th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 49th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 50th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 51st Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 52nd Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 53rd Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 54th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 55th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 56th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 57th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 58th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 59th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 60th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 61st Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 62nd Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 63rd Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 64th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 65th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 66th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 67th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 68th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 69th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 70th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 71st Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 72nd Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 73rd Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 74th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 75th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 76th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 77th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 78th Division; Ahmed Bey, Commander of the 79th Division; Ismail Hakki Bey, Commander of the 80th Division; Ali Bey, Commander of the 81st Division; 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were in marks and dollars respectively, and the Austrian and Hungarian banks are now charged with lack of regard for the interests of the Monarchy for not having also insisted on omitting the Bulgarian loan in the currency of their own country.

I have, &c.
THEO. RUSSELL.

[50471] No. 299.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 192.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Athens, November 6, 1913.*

GREEK Minister for Foreign Affairs appeals to *Entente* Powers to press Turkey to terminate the present inadmissible situation. He points out that Greece signed Treaty of cession under pressure when she would have preferred to settle at once the questions which are still outstanding, she has therefore a claim on the Powers for support.

Turkish delegates are plenipotentiaries with full powers to negotiate and sign, nevertheless, the Porte insists on reopening questions satisfactorily settled at Athens.

The country is becoming exasperated and enervated by the delay, and the situation, which prolonged will become dangerous, especially in view of the uncertainty as to the understanding between Turkey and Bulgaria.

[50513] No. 300.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. — Received November 7.

(No. 251.)
Sir, *Athens, October 31, 1913.*

THE law concerning the administration of the occupied territories a translation of some articles of which was enclosed in my despatch No. 62 A of the 28th March, on hostile, among other provisions, those of the Royal Decree restricting the transfer of real property, a translation of which was enclosed in my despatch No. 38 of the 27th February.

A Royal Decree dated the 27th instant rescinds the prohibition of the transfer of real property between private persons, in so far as such transactions tend to facilitate the establishment of refugees on the land.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[50573] No. 301.

Sir F. Harvey to Sir Edward Grey. (Received November 7.)

(No. 36.)
Sir, *London, November 1, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of the reports on the proceedings of the three Committees of the Balkan Financial Commission, which have examined respectively the questions of the Ottoman Debt, of claims to compensation, and of Turkish concessions in the ceded territories.

The first of these reports has been drawn up by myself, the second by one of the French delegates, M. Luquet, and the third by an Austrian delegate, M. d'Adler.

The first two of these reports—that dealing with the Ottoman Debt and that dealing with claims to compensation—are designed to place the plenary Commission and the Powers in possession of all the facts and considerations bearing on those questions.

The third Committee, dealing with concessions, has only completed a small portion of its task, and will continue the consideration of the subject-matter before it in the autumn.

I will accordingly confine myself in this despatch to the questions involved in the two first reports.

In order to make the general purport of these reports clear, it may be useful if I offer the following explanations.

At the outset of the Commission's labours the Balkan delegations showed great reluctance to undertake the examination of the question of the participation of their Governments in the Turkish Debt except in conjunction with the question of the payment by Turkey of a war indemnity. Considerable difficulty was found in inducing them to deal with the first of these questions, while reserving the point of principle involved in the second. In order to overcome this difficulty two Committees were formed: one to examine the share of the Turkish Debt which should fall to the Balkan States in virtue of their annexation of part of the Turkish territories, the other to consider the claims of the delegations to "pecuniary compensation" arising out of the war. The two Committees were to sit on alternate days, and the two questions were thus to be dealt with concurrently as desired by the Balkan delegations. The reference to the second Committee was so worded as to avoid the admission of the principle that a war indemnity would be due.

While the Committee of the Debt has been able under the very capable presidency of M. Helfferich (of the Deutsche Bank and Baghdad Railway), to make a thorough if not complete, examination of the Debt question, the Committee on Claims for Compensation has, by the nature of the case, been precluded from doing very much.

When the latter Committee met the Balkan delegations first put in claims for reimbursement by Turkey of their war expenses amounting, according to their statement, to some 70,000,000*. To this demand the Turkish delegation opposed an absolute refusal even to discuss the claim. The proposal of the president of the Committee, M. Rathenau, that the Committee should enter upon an examination of the financial situation of Turkey and the Balkan States with a view to seeing whether Turkey could support the charge of a war indemnity, met with opposition principally from myself, and it was not persisted in.

The Balkan delegations then put in a number of subsidiary claims amounting to about 6,000,000*, in respect of the maintenance of Turkish prisoners of war, repatriation of Ottoman subjects, claims of merchantships and other property of the exiles by Turkey, and so forth. These claims were the subject of a certain measure of discussion.

I do not think that the considerations bearing on these various claims could be put more concisely than they are in pages 181† of M. Luquet's report, which I remove indicate the points of principle reserved for decision on which it is necessary that the British delegates should receive instructions as to its future attitude.

The present position as regards each category of claim may perhaps be indicated very briefly as follows:—

Nature of Claim.	Amount of Claim.	How dealt with.
	£	
War indemnity	91,746,752	Consideration refused by the Ottoman delegation.
Repatriation of Turkish refugees	160,000	Accepted in principle by Ottoman delegation.
Maintenance of prisoners of war	2,179,782	Rejected by Ottoman delegation, except as regards pay of officer prisoners.
Seizure by Turkey of Servian waggons and war material	246,630	Reserved pending receipt of details of claim.
Losses sustained by inhabitants of Epirus by Turkish army	439,850	Reserved.
Losses sustained by Greek subjects in Turkish Empire (requisitions, expulsions, &c.)	1,640,000	
Losses sustained by Servian subjects by invasion of Turkish troops	80,000	
Sums seized by Turkish Government from branches of Agricultural Bank situated in ceded territories	Not fixed.	Objected to by Turkish delegation as being outside competence of the Commission.
Detention of Greek merchant ships	4,062,830	Referred to arbitration.
Total	100,955,250	

* This was subsequently increased to 85,000,000*l.* by the cession of the capital value of the pensions which Bulgaria and Greece undertake to pay as a result of the war.

† Pages 164–174 of the volume containing the three reports.

Turning now to the Committee of the Debt, it may be said that the views and proposals put forward in this Committee resolve themselves into two categories—those of the delegates representing against the majority* of the Great Powers and Turkey on the one hand, and those of the Balkan delegates on the other.

Broadly speaking, the view of the former delegates was that the Balkan States should take over a share of the Turkish Debt based either on the property which the general revenues of the ceded territories bear to those of the Turkish Empire as a whole, or on the proportion which the revenues specially assigned to the service of the Debt in the ceded territories bear to the same revenues in the remainder of the Turkish dominions. There was a certain amount of divergency of view among the different delegations of this group as to which of these methods of calculation should be chosen, and on the details of all was the extreme complexity of the Turkish Debt Administration a factor. It is satisfactory to find however that these calculations embody a great deal of what was put forward by the Great Powers provided results which should not be very materially. As will be seen by reference to page [illegible] of the Protocol No. [illegible] of the Debt, the share [illegible] nominal capital of the Ottoman Debt [illegible] of temporary loans and treasury bills of the Turkish Government which should fall to the Balkan States under various hypothetical assumptions [illegible] to about £T 20,000,000. It is true that the Powers refused to accept all the suggestions which were made before the Committee with a view to reducing the Balkan share of the Debt. But it seems probable that the more extreme proposals of the Powers did not all agree with each other and as the points of difference were gradually cleared up, somewhere about the figures mentioned above [illegible].

It should be borne in mind, firstly, that the above figures represent a nominal amount of the Balkan share of the Debt, which at a considerable discount would be much less in actual cash, but for the purpose of ready calculation this has been put down at 40 per cent. of the portion representing future loss, and 60 per cent. of the principal, that is to say, at the Balkan share of the Turkish Debt being [illegible] the present [illegible] £T 1,500,000 which is £T 1,000,000, plus £T 150,000, or £T 850,000, which is roughly equivalent to £8,750,000 [illegible] that the conversion into a cash equivalent [illegible] of the realization of the revenues and the sum involved [illegible] the present financial situation of the Balkan States may be [illegible] in connexion with any settlement at present [illegible].

It should be observed in the second place that the Balkan delegates have by no means admitted the principle of the payment of any sum. Although they, in a measure, accepted the view of the Great Powers as to the advantages which would accrue from the operation, they have never disassociated themselves from the Balkan delegates, in that for the good reason that, as I will explain, the delegations do not admit that any annuity is payable by their States.

The point of view of the Balkan delegations may be stated as follows:

We are not bound by international law or equity to take over any share of the public debt of Turkey as a consequence of the annexation of part of her territory. But we are prepared, to meet as far as we can, Turkey's wishes that her creditors must not suffer by the change of the situation in the European provinces. Turkey and that it is the duty of the Balkan States to protect them against loss arising from the annexation. We accordingly propose to protect the creditors in such a manner which will result in the same total contribution from Turkish finances as would result from the assumption by us of part of the Turkish Debt. We therefore make the following calculation: We assign sufficient revenues to cover the service of the Turkish Debt, and hand over the revenues assigned to the Debt in the territories which will remain Turkish. Any amount which may happen to be insufficient to cover the service of the Turkish Debt we will undertake to make good, up to the amount of an annuity equivalent to the yield by the assigned revenues in the annexed territories at the date. This latter amount will be left in the situation which has been the case hitherto, while the Powers and Turkish finances will not be affected.

Apart from the fact that the result of the above operation would not be to leave the bondholders exactly where they were before, far from the creditors point of view [illegible] to substitute a cashment of an assigned revenue—

* The precise [illegible] was never, I think, made quite clear by their delegations.

it is difficult to deny that some such arrangement as the above would in theory suffice to protect the bondholders, however inconvenient and objectionable they might find it in practice. It would, however, of course, leave Turkey in a far worse financial situation than she has occupied in the past, since she would, with territory and revenue reduced, have to bear practically the same debt charge as hitherto.

To the claim that they should, in equity, do more than they propose, and take over an actual share of the Turkish Debt, the Balkan States oppose the counter-claim for a war indemnity, pleading the financial straits to which they have been reduced by the war, the long period that must elapse before a substantial recuperation and development of the annexed territories can be hoped for, and the probable effect on the situation of their own creditors caused by an increase of the burden of their debt beyond that already rendered necessary by the expenses of the war.

The difference between the demand of the Powers and the offer of the Balkan States is really one of point of view—the former aiming at leaving both Turkey and her creditors in the same relative situation as they were before the loss of Turkey's European provinces, the latter claiming that all that can be asked of them is the protection of the interests of the bondholders alone.

The question now arises, What is the sum which, on the basis of their own contentions, the Balkan States would have to pay? The Balkan delegations point, in the Committee's two papers (Tableaux XIV (A) et (B) of the report of the Debt Committee), not indeed to establish that the assigned revenues of the territories remaining under Turkish sovereignty would suffice for the whole service of the Debt. This calculation, however, is open to two objections. In the first place, the revenues assigned severally to the service of the various loans are thrown into a common fund, made available for the service of the whole of the annuities. This is in accordance with the contracts of the loans in question, the creditors of Loans A having no claim on the revenues assigned to the service of Loan B, and it would be no compensation to them for the inadequacy of their revenues that those assigned to Loan B showed a surplus. In strictness, therefore, the deficiency on the revenues assigned to each loan must be calculated severally, and the total of such deficiencies is what the charge of the Balkan States, with a set-off thereagainst the surpluses which may emerge on the service of other loans.

The second objection which may be taken to the Balkan calculations is that it includes among the assigned revenues the yield of the 3 per cent. stamps surtax. It is contended that the Powers having only consented to this until the year 1924, it is impossible to take account of its renewal, even though it has a revenue which will be available after the above date. This view has not been universally accepted, the Balkan delegations urging that the surtax should be included or omitted according as in fact it proves hereafter to be renewed or not.

The effect of these objections, if made to the calculations would be to increase the insufficiency of the assigned revenues in the Turkish territories to [illegible] £T 863,360.*

It would thus appear that the share of the Ottoman Debt which should be taken over by the Balkan States is estimated at about £T 23,000,000 (nominal value) according to the system advocated by the delegations of the Great Powers and at a figure varying, according to various hypotheses, from zero to about £T 2,000,000 on the system advocated by the Balkan delegations.

The difficulty is to see how sufficient pressure is to be brought to bear upon the Balkan States to induce them to accept against their will a share of the Debt approaching £T 23,000,000 or even £T 20,000,000 without the compensation of a war indemnity.

Recent events have no doubt modified the situation in the sense that Bulgaria could hardly now put forward a claim against Turkey for a war indemnity. On the other hand, the last war has doubtless still further strained the financial resources of Greece and Servia, and although these States will benefit by larger accession of territory it is doubtful whether their strengthened financial situation will not make them more reluctant than ever to undertake a heavy liability towards Turkey's creditors without substantial compensation. The chief means of pressure the Powers appear to

* See footnote to page [illegible] of the Report. [illegible] equivalent to £17,200,000 of the nominal value of the funded debt. To this would have to be added a share of the advances and Treasury bills, say £T 1,000,000, total, £T 18,750,000. It should be noted further that the Balkan calculations are based on that view of the question discussed at page 25 [illegible] of the Report, which is more favourable to the Balkan States. The opposite view would have the effect of adding, about £T 80,000 a year or £T 1,600,000, to the above figures.

† Page [illegible] of the volume containing the three reports.

‡ Pages [illegible] of the volume containing the three reports.

possess consists in the possibility of refusing facilities to the Balkan States on the European money markets. It is a question to what extent such pressure would really prove effective. The financial strain imposed on the Balkan States by their two wars must be very great, and their need for financial assistance correspondingly pressing. It seems unlikely, nevertheless, that this source of pressure alone would, unless stringently exercised for a prolonged period, suffice to make them accept their full mathematical share of the Turkish Debt.

Should it, on the other hand, be felt that, in view of their difficult situation, it would not be fair to require the Balkan States to assume this full mathematical share of the Turkish Debt without any compensation, and if, in these circumstances, it should be decided to have recourse to a compromise, it might perhaps be arranged that the Balkan States should assume the full share of the debt which falls to them, namely, £T 23,000,000, and should receive a war indemnity to an amount to be determined. This could be provided by Turkey out of a loan guaranteed on the 3 per cent. surtax, which it is assumed the Powers would consent to renew. This surtax, to the extent to which it is not pledged to the bondholders, would, in the territories remaining under Turkish sovereignty, yield about £T 640,000, which at 5 per cent. would suffice for the service of a loan of £T 12,800,000.

My reasons for suggesting that the Balkan States should assume the gross liability of £T 23,000,000, balanced in part by an indemnity rather than the net liability, is that the bondholders would thus obtain the full compensation for the reduction of their security to which they are entitled. Moreover the distribution among the various creditors of Turkey of the sums paid by the Balkan States will present considerable difficulties, which will be very greatly increased unless the sum paid is calculated on some one of the principles on which their claims are based, and distributed in accordance with that principle.

If the payment of any indemnity by Turkey were felt to present too great difficulties, it might then be arranged that the £T 23,000,000 required for the reduction of the existing Turkish Debt should be provided in part by a contribution from the Balkan States and in part out of the proceeds of a new Turkish loan guaranteed on the 3 per cent. surtax.

It will, I think, be evident from what I have written that the next step in the negotiations with regard to the Turkish Debt and the indemnity must be taken by the Powers. It does not appear that the International Commission can advance matters further at this stage. The Commission can decide nothing except by an unanimous vote, and it is clear that pressure from the Powers will have to be exercised on the Balkan States to induce them to accept less favourable terms than they at present hold out for. It would seem therefore that no useful purpose can be served by a further meeting of the International Commission, and that it would be best to continue its work in the matter of Turkish concessions until the general lines of a settlement on the debt and indemnity questions have been arrived at. It is, I understand, the view of the president of the International Commission and of the French Government that it is now for the Powers to agree among themselves, in the light of the reports which are herewith presented, what would be a fair settlement as between Turkey and the Balkan States.

I have, &c.
H. P. HARVEY

[51240] No. 302.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 675.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1913.*

WITH regard to the Greek appeal to the Triple Entente Powers to intervene at Constantinople to induce Turkey to make peace with Greece, I observed to-day to M. Cambon that a diplomatic representation by the three Powers would have an effect. If the Turks were informed that they could not get money till peace was made, that might have some result. But otherwise, the only thing to do would be to consult all the other Powers as to whether anything should be done at Constantinople.

M. Cambon said that he believed that Austria was encouraging Turkey to delay the negotiations. M. Pichon had given it to be understood that there could be no loan to Turkey till peace was made.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[50471] No. 303.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 398.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, November 8, 1913.*

SIR I. ELLIOT'S telegram No. 192 of 6th November.

Please ascertain views of Minister for Foreign Affairs as to reply which they think should be returned to Greek request.

[50844] No. 304.

Sir L. Mallet to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 910.)
Sir, *Constantinople, October 31, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch from the acting British consul-general at Salonica, reporting on a proclamation issued by the Provisional Government of Xanthi inviting the population to accept Bulgarian rule.

The Jemal Bey to whom Mr. Morgan refers as Colonel Jemal Bey, the Commandant of Constantinople, who left here some two weeks ago for Gumuljina with the object of overcoming the reluctance of the Western Thracian "militia" to accept Bulgarian administration.

It is interesting to note that the proclamation refers to the secret clauses of the Turco-Bulgarian Agreement, which are generally supposed to provide for common action on the part of Turkey and Bulgaria if the question of the Straits reaches an acute stage. The agreement is said to cover the creation of an autonomous Macedonia and the reversion of Western Thrace to Turkish rule, possibly also of an autonomous Imbros.

I have, &c.
LOUIS MALLET.

Enclosure in No. 304.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Mr. Marling.

(No. 113. Confidential.)
Sir, *Salonica, October 24, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I am informed by a traveller from Xanthi, whose news is confirmed by a letter to the German consulate here from its vice-consul in Xanthi, that Bulgarian troops to the number of 5,000 were expected to occupy that town yesterday evening, the 23rd October.

A proclamation addressed to the population has been posted up in Xanthi by the local authorities, which will serve to prepare the way for a peaceful reception of the Bulgarians. Among other things, the proclamation says: "By your rising and by your efforts you have obtained valuable concessions from the Bulgarian Government. The mutessarif will be a Moslem, while the kaimakams will be Bulgarians with Moslem assistants. The heads of cabinets (or all districts) will be Mosaic or Bulgarian, according as the majority of the inhabitants of the district are Moslem or Bulgarian. The language of the law courts will be Turkish. Those converted by force will be freely allowed to practise their ancient religion. The gendarmerie will be partly Moslem and partly Bulgarian." In addition the proclamation mentions that there are secret clauses in the agreement between the Turkish and Bulgarian Governments.

The publication of the proclamation with its reassuring terms will no doubt reconcile the people to the idea of accepting Bulgarian rule. How far the irregulars will be affected by it remains to be seen.

On the whole one may now with confidence expect that the Bulgarian occupation of the district between the Mesta and Maritza Rivers will be effected without any difficulty and with but very serious disorder.

This result is the more to be anticipated in view of the fact that, as a result of the conclusion of a Turco-Bulgarian Agreement at Constantinople, Turkish consuls

* Also to Sir E. Goschen (No. 384), Mr. O'Beirne (No. 739), Mr. Dering (No. 316), and Mr. Russell (No. 315).

were sent from the Turkish capital to the district ruled by the Provisional Government to urge on it and on the people the advisability of submitting to Bulgarian rule. Among such emissaries was, I hear, one Jemal Bey, said to be Prefect of Constantinople, who was active in counselling the population of Gumuljina and Xanthi to give up the idea of resisting the Bulgarian occupation and to accept its government peaceably.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN.

50887] No. 305.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 200. Confidential.)

Sir, *Belgrade, November 5, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 150 Confidential of the 9th September, I have the honour to report that, having received private information that the former negotiations between Montenegro and Servia had been brought to a conclusion, I took an opportunity of enquiring at the Servian Ministry for Foreign Affairs to-day whether this was in fact the case. I was informed that an agreement has been reached under which Montenegro is to receive Ipek, Djakova, and about two-thirds of the Metoja plain. I further learn from the private source above referred to that what practically amounts to a defensive alliance has been entered into, Servia having undertaken to join Montenegro in military support in the event of an Albanian or Austrian attack. I have not learnt that further arrangements have been come to between the two Governments of a more or less secret character, but I have as yet been unable to obtain details.

I have, &c.
DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[50847] No. 306.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 550.)

Sir, *Paris, November 8, 1913.*

I ENQUIRED of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in accordance with the instructions conveyed to me by your despatch No. 596 of the 2nd instant, the views of the French Government as to the procedure to be adopted by the Powers in connection with the annexation of Crete by Greece.

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the reply which I have to-day received from M. Pichon, giving the views of the French Government as to the desirability of making arrangements for the settlement of the various financial and other questions involved in the withdrawal from Crete of the protecting Powers.

His Excellency enquires whether, in the event of your concurring in those views, you consider it desirable that the two Governments should communicate them jointly to the other Cabinets interested.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

Enclosure in No. 306.

Note communicated to Sir F. Bertie by M. Pichon.

L'AMBASSADE de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu entretenir ce département, le 4 octobre dernier, des questions que poserait la notification éventuelle aux Puissances protectrices de l'annexion de la Crète à la Grèce et s'enquérir à ce sujet des vues du Gouvernement de la République.

Sans aborder en ce moment et avant la signature du traité de paix turco-grec, le point de savoir s'il conviendra de reconnaître implicitement le fait accompli ou de le

sanctionner explicitement, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères estime qu'il serait opportun de se préoccuper du règlement des questions secondaires que l'annexion de la Crète à la Grèce aura pour conséquence de poser.

En premier lieu, les Puissances protectrices auront à prévoir l'amortissement de l'emprunt de 4 millions qu'elles ont consenti à la Crète en 1901. M. Pichon pense que les quatre Cabinets intéressés devront s'efforcer d'obtenir de la Grèce l'assurance qu'elle prendra à sa charge le règlement de cette dette.

Il conviendra, en second lieu, d'assurer, avant l'annexion, le payement de l'indemnité due à M. Zaimis, au moyen d'un prélèvement sur les revenus disponibles de la surtaxe de 3 pour cent. Le Gouvernement de la république a déjà approuvé cette procédure, qui devra rallier l'assentiment des six Puissances, ainsi que l'a remarqué Sir Edward Grey.

Les Puissances protectrices possèdent, en outre, en toute propriété dans la baie de La Sude, des établissements créés pour installation des contingents internationaux. Elles auront à examiner, chacune en ce qui concerne les établissements dont elle est propriétaire, s'il convient de céder purement et simplement au Gouvernement hellénique ces installations, hangars, lazarets, canalisations, &c., sans en faire l'objet de compensations et sans stipuler de charge d'aucune sorte. En ce qui concerne les établissements qui sont la propriété de la France, le Gouvernement de la république, après avoir pris dans la plus large mesure l'avis de la Marine, inclinerait en raison de leur médiocre valeur à consentir la cession pure et simple au Gouvernement hellénique, sous réserve toutefois que ce Gouvernement voudra bien prendre à sa charge les dépenses de transport des soldats français qui sont morts en Crète.

Une fois l'annexion accomplie, il y aurait enfin à arrêter des règles définitives pour que les Puissances signataires puissent exercer leurs droits de contrôle sur les emprunts ottomans dont les produits ont été affectés à la Crète. Les dispositions des traités de 1878 et 1881 sont à cet égard très claires et il suffirait de s'y référer purement et simplement par un échange de notes des Puissances protectrices, qui établiraient par procès-verbaux constatant la cessation de leur contrôle.

M. Pichon serait heureux d'avoir à ce sujet l'opinion de Sir F. Bertie et de connaître dès que possible, et au plus tard dans la première quinzaine de novembre, les vues du Gouvernement de la république et, s'il juge opportun d'en saisir, de concert les Cabinets intéressés.

Paris, le 5 novembre, 1913.

[51119.] No. 307.

Sir H. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 194.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 10, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 384 of 8th November. Athens telegram No. 192 of 6th November.

Acting Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs states that Greek Chargé d'Affaires is coming to him this afternoon, probably on the same subject. He intends to tell him that the Imperial Government have made, and are making, strong representations to the Sublime Porte urging them to conclude negotiations with Greece, and pointing out the dangers to which they would be exposed if delay or rupture of the negotiations led to hostilities.

He told me on Thursday last that he sent instructions to the German Ambassador at Constantinople telling him to use no opportunity of impressing this advice upon the Grand Vizier.

He has spoken to Djavid Bey in the same sense and had asked him the meaning of the present Turkish friendship with Bulgaria, their deadly enemy of a few months ago. On Djavid Bey giving him a very evasive answer, he has pointed out the danger of Turkey being pushed into a war by Bulgaria, who had her own axe to grind.

Such a war, even if successful, would be of no profit whatever to Turkey.

[51121] No. 308.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 269.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 10, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 246 of 4th October. Turkey and Greece.

The French Chargé d'Affaires informs me that he has received information that the Roumanian Government has now given warning at Constantinople and Sofia that further disturbances in the Balkans would not leave her indifferent.

(Sent to Athens, Bucharest, Constantinople, and Sophia.)

[51124] No. 309.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey. (Received November 10.)

(No. 382.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 11, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 739 of 8th November.

Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that Greek Chargé d'Affaires spoke to him on 8th November in the sense of Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs' communication to His Majesty's Minister at Athens.

Le Prophet that Russian Ambassador at Constantinople had quite recently again counselled Porte to show moderation in their negotiations with Greece, basing his advice on general interest taken by the Powers in idea of conclusion of peace in the Balkans. He had also informed the Greek Chargé d'Affaires that French Ambassador at Constantinople had been instructed to state to the Porte categorically that there would be no Turkish loan floated in Paris until Turkey concluded peace. He had at the same time advised the Greek Government to show themselves conciliatory.

Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs does not propose to make any further reply to Greek Government with reference to memorandum, sentence of Athens telegram No. 192 of 6th November. He has received most positive assurances from Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs that Bulgarian Government have no intention of engaging in fresh adventures, and he does not believe that Austria, as at present disposed, would encourage Porte to do so.

[51128] No. 310.

Mr. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 268.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November 10, 1913.*

ATHENS telegram No. 192 of 6th November.

Minister for Foreign Affairs thinks it would be well to hear Turkish side of the argument as well as Greek before proceeding on making representations at Constantinople as suggested by M. Venizelos. He is not in possession of details which are delaying discussions between the two Governments and therefore is hardly in a position to judge who is responsible for retarding conclusion of the negotiations. He thinks that if representations were made on lines desired by Greek Government they should be made not only at Constantinople, but also at Athens and that it would be best that all the Powers should take them simultaneously. If this were to be done he would be willing to give instructions accordingly, but does not believe personally that they would have much effect.

[51123] No. 311.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 193.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November 10, 1913.*

TURCO-GREEK negotiations.

Latest Turkish proposals are practically a renewal of those already rejected. Delegates are again awaiting instructions, but Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs sees no prospect of a settlement.

Roumanian Minister of the Interior, who, on his way through Constantinople, urged the Porte strongly to make peace has prolonged his visit to Athens, and is continuing his efforts through the Turkish delegate.

[51325] No. 312.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. Received November 11.)

(No. 194.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November 11, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 10th November.

Thanks to the intervention of Roumanian Minister of the Interior Greek and Turkish delegates are this morning initialing the complete text of the treaty *ad referendum* to Constantinople. Turkish delegate hopes to receive authority to sign to-morrow or Thursday. I understand that Servian Government are ready to adopt for their treaty with Turkey whatever text is agreed to by the Greek Government.

[51483] No. 313.

Mr. T. Russell to Sir Edward Grey. (Received November 12.)

(No. 166.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 12, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 801 of 8th November to Paris.

Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs has stated that his Government appealed only to *Balkan* Powers, as they were positive Italy was encouraging Turkey to protract peace negotiations in order to create a new situation, which might ultimately benefit Italian interests.

Greek Minister has also observed that as Constantinople is receiving any support from Germany or Austria-Hungary, but stated that his Government felt bound to associate themselves with their allies in the exchange of views recently appeared.

[51492] No. 314.

Sir L. Mallet to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 13.)

No. 258.
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, November 12, 1913.*

I AM informed by Greek Delegate that Council of Ministers are sending instructions to Athens to sign peace on terms already initialled.

[51519] No. 315.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 218.)
Sir, *Belgrade, November 6, 1913.*

IN my despatch No. 198 of the 23rd ultimo I had the honour to report that I had received information to the effect that it was intended to commence negotiations at Constantinople for the resumption of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Servia as soon as the Greco-Turkish negotiations were concluded. I have now learnt from an authoritative source that the Servian Government has, within the last few days, authorised M. Pavlovitch, who is acting in a semi-official capacity as Servian agent at Constantinople, to commence these negotiations at once.

I am told that the following are the reasons for this departure from the original intention and hastening on the negotiations. The Servian Government having become very anxious at the delay in the settlement of the questions pending between Greece and Turkey instructed the Servian Minister at St. Petersburgh to approach the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs with a view to the Russian Government representing at Constantinople the desirability of a speedy conclusion of a treaty. M. Sazonoff told the Servian Minister that it would also be advisable for the Servian Government to give similar advice at Athens, and further suggested that various means of persuading the Greek Government to hasten a settlement would be for the Servian

Government itself to commence negotiations at Constantinople. I have reason to believe that M. Pavlovitch received full powers three or four days ago, and that a satisfactory basis of understanding is in course of being reached.

I have, &c.
DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[51520] No. 316.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received November 13.*)

(No. 219.)
Sir, *Belgrade, November 10, 1913.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to report that I enquired to-day of the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs what truth there was in the report that negotiations for the resumption of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Servia had been commenced at Constantinople, and that an agreement on the matter was about to be reached.

M. Spalaikovitch denied that this was so, and stated that Servia did not very well, at the present moment, do anything which might be construed at Athens as an unfriendly act. The source, however, from which the information contained in my previous despatch was derived is of such authority as a matter that I am inclined to believe that the Servian Government, though it will be careful not to do or say anything definite before the Greco-Turkish negotiations are concluded, has nevertheless taken certain steps at Constantinople with the double object of preserving the Greek Government to Hellenic settlement, and of giving the French Government a further proof of its pacific intentions, and thus facilitating the loan negotiations. With regard to the latter, the Servian Government has not yet definitely given its consent to the participation in the Ottoman debt, and has further expressed a desire to receive at once the full amount of the loan (originally contracted for 2,000,000*l.*, (Secretary of Legation's No. 157 of the 5th September and No. 181 of the 1st October).

I understand, however, that there is every probability of a satisfactory arrangement being shortly come to.

I have, &c.
DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[51670] No. 317.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November 13.*)

(No. 195.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November 13, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 11th November.

Turkish reply received last night leaves us to accept treaty as initialed, but requires modifications concerning islands, concerning title of Committee of Union and Progress to properties of late Sultan, and concerning Vacoufs. Most important point is the demand that annual rent, still to be conceded, in lieu of cessation of collection of tithes for Vacoufs.

Reply arrived before departure last night of Roumanian Minister of the Interior for Roumania via Constantinople, and was communicated to him.

[52437] No. 318.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. O'Reilly.

(No. 443.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 13, 1913.*

THE Bulgarian Minister asked me to-day whether the Conference of Ambassadors was to reassemble.

I replied that it might reassemble if it was required, and that would depend upon events, but it was not contemplated to resume it at present.

He asked about the question of the recognition of territory annexed by Bulgaria, and whether that would require a conference.

I said that I thought it would not require a conference, but it was a matter on which the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Berlin would have to consult.

He referred to the letter that I had written to the Jewish Association in connection with this question, and he emphasised the need for the protection of Bulgarian schools and so forth in Servian and Greek territory.

I confirmed what I had said in the letter to the Jewish Association, which had appeared in the press.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[52435] No. 319.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Crackanthorpe.

(No. 76.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 13, 1913.*

THE Servian Charge d'Affaires said to-day that, while he was in Belgrade recently he had been received by the King, who had given him a very cordial message conveying his appreciation of the attitude of the British Government towards Servian interests throughout the Turkish crisis, and including a cordial reference to myself. He also said that this was the feeling of the Servian people.

I thanked him for the message, and said that I appreciated very much the kind sentiments that were entertained by the King and the Servian people.

The Charge d'Affaires then pressed me for a reply to a communication made on the 9th September last by the Servian Government announcing the annexation of territory. It was a formal matter, but it no doubt ought to receive new letters, and he hoped that we would take the initiative.

I said that I would look into the matter, but I should have to consult with other Powers before doing anything. My view was that it was a thing in which the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Berlin should act together if possible. There was a kindred question, as regards territory that Bulgaria and Greece had taken over under the Treaty of Bucharest, which ought to be dealt with at the same time.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[51814] No. 320.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—*Received November 14.*)

(No. 197.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Athens, November 14, 1913.*

IMMEDIATE. Reinforcement has been ordered. Only the last four classes will be kept with the colours and 1914 class, shortly called out.

[52014] No. 321.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received November 15.*)

(No. 220.) *Decypher.*
Sir, *Belgrade, November 12, 1913.*

FROM conversations I have had at the Servian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and in private quarters I gather that some apprehension is felt lest the Austrian Government may be intending to renew, on its own account and in a more or less categorical form, the representations on the subject of religious minorities in the territories ceded to Servia which formed the subject of joint action at Belgrade last August, and to which the Prime Minister made an unqualified promise to reply in writing (see my despatch No. 115 of 20th August). The new Austrian Minister is expected here towards the end of the month, and it is thought that he may be armed with instructions. The reported massacres of the Albanian population by Servian troops would serve as an additional pretext. Isolated action by Austria would be much to be deprecated, as it is most unlikely that Servia would prove equally submissive, and a situation of great danger might arise. The Austrian Minister here is continually enquiring of me whether I have received reports from Uskub of sedition among Servian troops owing

to the prolonged mobilisation I have requested vice-consul there to report Though there may have been some few isolated instances of discontent, neither the Minister for Foreign Affairs nor the Russian Minister attach any importance to the matter

I have, &c
DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[52127] No. 322

Sir L. Mallet to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 524.)
Sir, *Constantinople, November 12, 1913*

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith copies of a despatch which has been addressed to me by Colonel Tyrrell Military Attaché, at this embassy reporting on the progress of the demobilisation of the Ottoman army, and on the general feeling in military circles.

I have, &c.
LOUIS MALLET.

Enclosure in No. 322.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tyrrell to Sir L. Mallet.

(No. 59.)
Sir, *Constantinople, November 10, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in spite of the slow progress of the negotiations with Greece, and of the sinister construction put on the delay by a portion of the press and by public opinion, I do not think that the Turkish military authorities have any present intention of going to war or that they contemplate the possibility of hostilities breaking out in the immediate future.

It is true that the demobilisation, orders for which were issued on the 12th October, has been slow in materialising, but that it has been of such a partial nature that the degree of efficiency and readiness which may have been attained by the Turkish army in Thrace has not been seriously impaired as yet, but I think it is safe from the recent movements of troops, to draw the general conclusion that the army has been sensibly lessened in numbers by the repatriation of the Redif units, and that the Nizam units are being sorted and distributed so as to correspond roughly with their future peace disposition.

I am assured at the Ministry of War that all Redif units have now been sent home and disbanded, and that the forces in Thrace have been diminished by 150,000 men during the past month. It is impossible to check this statement satisfactorily, owing to the almost total absence of corps and other reports from the interior on military matters, but eight battalions of the Izmir Redif Division are reported to have arrived at Trebizond, and from various indications I think that the divisions of Smyrna Aidin, Denizli, Usak, Kula, Sultanieh, and Edremit have also been disbanded. Shipments have been made principally to Rodosto and Gallipoli, for Smyrna and a certain number have been brought by sea from the Marmara ports to Constantinople, whence they are transhipped for the Black Sea ports. We have no news pointing to the arrival in their districts of the divisions of Samsun, Amasia, Sivas, Kharput, or of those hailing from Central Anatolia, but I think that the statement that all Redif divisions have been, or are being, demobilised is generally correct though such figures as we have hardly bear out the statement that the army in Thrace has been diminished by 150,000 men. Movements by rail in this direction are practically nil and our reports from Smyrna and the Dardanelles incline me to believe that the numbers are considerably smaller even allowing for these reports being, necessarily, somewhat incomplete, and that there are many ports of disembarkation from which we get no news at all. In considering the numbers of the arrivals reported at Smyrna allowance must also be made for the fact that a Nizam army corps is now being transported to Smyrna, there to remain in permanent garrison.

The fact of the matter is that this disbandment of Redif units means little more than getting rid of old and useless men, invalids, and other of the less desirable elements of the army. Ever since the beginning of the war units have been mixed, and every army corps and division has been "composed" in some way or other, so that one cannot say that any named one of them contains the units inherent to its paper organisation. This state of things has continued to the present moment, so

that the disbandment of all the Redif divisions merely means the disappearance of their names from among the bodies composing the various army corps, that of certain partially formed and wholly unorganised army corps such as the 5th, 6th, and 8th, and that of men of the Mustahfiz and Redif classes who can readily be spared, while a number of officers and of the stronger and more efficient men become available for drafting to the Nizam battalions, the army thereby undergoing one of its periodical transformations and the army corps which remain being consolidated and strengthened. Theoretically the Nizam and Ikhtiyat classes alone remain under arms, but the matter will gradually be discussed, but actually, little attempt is made to discriminate between the various classes, and we may take it that the Nizam battalions are now 800 to 850 strong, though Izzet Pasha says that it is his intention to reduce these immediately to 650.

Against the number of men dismissed must be put 40,000 fresh men transported by rail from Constantinople to the army in Thrace during the period the 16th October to the 6th November. Most of these are from the training depôts at Constantinople and new recruits, but a good many are first drafts of seasoned men from Anatolia. Of these reinforcements, the garrisons of Adrianople Kirk Kilisse, and Demotika have received about 9,000 each, the balance being distributed to other Roumelian garrisons, 260 Decauville trolleys have been sent up to Adrianople, and about 1,000 draft horses and camels. Otherwise there has been practically no transport of military *materiel* during the period mentioned.

The army is now being distributed roughly as follows:—

Army Corps.	At—	Commander.
I	Constantinople	Mir Ahmed Jemal Bey.
II	Kirk Kilisse	Ahmed Hussein Izzet Pasha.
III	Rodosto	Ismail Veli Pasha.
IV	Smyrna	Ahmed Djemal Pasha.
IX	Adrianople	Ismail Mahmoud Ali Pasha.
X	Garrison	Ibrahim Hakki Pasha.

Each army corps contains three divisions, but these are not yet all formed, and there are not the full number of battalions. Nor have all the army corps fully assumed the positions given above. Izzet Pasha's statement that the six army corps contain now about 150,000 infantry and that including cavalry, artillery, fortress, and technical troops there are now 200,000 troops in Thrace altogether seems to be about right.

As regards the new disposition of these corps, I can only say at present that in the IV Army Corps at Smyrna is included the 42nd Division (late of Tripoli in Africa), that the IX Army Corps contains divisions numbered 27, 28, 29, and the X Army Corps the 30th, 31st, and 32nd Divisions.

I think the above dispositions may be taken as an indication of the present views of the military authorities as to the army which they intend to maintain in future, though a final decision on this point will not be come to until the new German military mission has arrived, and has had time to study the whole question of Turkey's military necessities and capabilities. The permanent garrison of the territory of the whilom first army inspection, Constantinople, Thrace, and Western Asia Minor, was before the war four army corps. It is now six. With the exception of Constantinople and Smyrna the whole area was practically comprised in the vilayet of Adrianople. I am informed by a competent financial authority that the whole revenue of the vilayet of Adrianople was less than the military expenditure on its garrison and fortifications. The revenue producing area has now been reduced by the cession to Bulgaria of the sanjak of Gumuljina, which was its most productive province, and which required an almost negligible fraction of the garrison, but of the country round Tirnovo, yet the vilayet will probably have to support a larger garrison.

This does not seem to give much promise of reform in the direction of decreasing the military expenditure and of bringing it more into proportion with the resources of the country, and though it is only an indication I venture to express the opinion that the conclusions of the German military mission will be guided rather by the military and strategical aspects of the question than by a consideration of what the finances of the country can support, and that its advice will be rather in the direction of increasing military expenditure than otherwise. "Money has got to be found for

the army" and "Money can always be found somehow" will probably, as in Mahmoud Shevket's time, be the keynote of the Minister of War, and I guess the new German military mission meets with unexpected success in reorganising the Turkish army and making it a really efficient instrument of war, the reoccupation of Adrianople and Kirk Kilisse, with the attendant responsibilities, and demands for new fortifications, increased garrisons, &c., will prove to have been a contributory blessing to the Empire at large.

Though it will be seen that there is nothing which savours of immediate preparation for war with Greece (except perhaps the transfer of an army corps from Thrace to Smyrna, but which is sufficiently accounted for by other reasons), still there remains an army in Thrace which is probably capable of invading new Greece by way of Dedeagatch and Gumuldjina should circumstances require it. The question whether Bulgaria would regard such a course with disfavour or would secretly encourage it, is not in my competence, but it is my opinion, from conversations with Turkish and Bulgarian officers, that in any case she would not try to prevent it at present, and would have to be content with protestations which the Turks in their newly-acquired belief in the *fait accompli* would cheerfully disregard. I also consider that the Turkish army, as a whole, is animated by a spirit of revenge for the loss of Adrianople, Macedonia, and especially Salonica, and that it is only the weakness of the fleet and the want of money which prevent it from renewing the fortune of war now. Of these the latter is the more potent consideration at present. Salaries are many months in arrears, and much misery and distress is being caused thereby among the officers, whose straightened circumstances of exile that even the German officers have not been paid for four months. But when this disability has been removed by the contract of a loan, I think the spirit now prevailing in the army may show itself, even at the question of the islands is left unsettled, by seeking an opportunity for reversing or modifying the results of the last war.

I have, &c.

L. TYRRELL,
Military Attaché.

[62471] No. 323.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 387.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 18, 1913.*

M. SAZONOFF to-day expressed anxiety to know what were your intentions with regard to Conference of Ambassadors in London resuming its meetings. He remarked that it appears to offer only practical means of settling Ægean islands question. He suggested Conference need not resume its meetings for some time to come, and that it confined itself to islands question this would tend to remove any objections which Austria might entertain.

[52605] No. 324.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 1052. Secret.)
Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 19, 1913.*

M. PICHON being absent from Paris, I enquired of M. Paléologue to-day, in accordance with the instructions contained in your telegram No. 417 of the 18th November whether the French Government had received information that a member of the Young Turk party had gone to Rome to negotiate a loan on mortgage of an Ægean island or on the security of its revenues.

M. Paléologue replied in the affirmative, but stated that the French Government were not disposed to regard the report as of much importance, as it was of Greek origin and had reached them from Rome.

[53169] No. 325.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 266.)
Sir, *Athens, November 17, 1913.*

THE Treaty of Peace between Greece and Turkey was signed at 2.30 A.M. on the 14th instant. A translation was published on the same day in a morning paper, but it was incomplete, and M. Panas, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, told me he could not let me have the full treaty with the annexed protocols until it had been submitted to the Chamber which he expected would be done on the 19th instant. I shall await the official publication before transmitting the text of the treaty to you, but I may state that it contains an article by which the high contracting parties undertake to maintain, so far as concerns them, the provisions of the Treaty of London of the 30th May, 1913, including the stipulations of article 13 of that treaty (which leaves the fate of the Ægean islands to the decision of the Great Powers).

If the instructions to the Ottoman plenipotentiaries had not arrived when they did, or at most a few hours later, the Greek Government would have broken off the negotiations. Circulars to the Greek representatives abroad were lying ready for signature on the Minister's table, and the Greek fleet had been ordered to be ready for sea within twenty-four hours.

The news of the signature of the treaty was the signal for general rejoicings. Although there has been some grumbling at the opposition press, and there will be no doubt in the Chamber that victorious Greece has accepted terms little different from those imposed upon defeated Bulgaria, yet the general feeling is undoubtedly that anything is better than a prolongation of the state of suspense and that it was high time for every one to return to his many avocations.

Ghalib Bey left on the 12th instant for Constantinople with the treaty and expects to return here next week with the ratifications which have to be exchanged within a fortnight of the signature. It is recognised here that his personal attitude has throughout been conciliatory and has gone far to enable a settlement to be arrived at.

I have, &c.

F. ELLIOT.

[53085] No. 326.

Sir L. Mallet to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 941.)
Sir, *Constantinople, November 18, 1913.*

HIS Majesty's Minister at Athens has doubtless reported to you in detail the conclusion at Athens on the 14th November of the Turco-Greek peace negotiations, due in great part to the mediation of M. Take Jonesco, the Roumanian Minister of the Interior.

In the beginning of the month the negotiations threatened to come to a deadlock and the press here began to adopt a menacing tone towards Greece, when the arrival at Constantinople of M. Take Jonesco seemed completely to alter the situation. The Ottoman Government has probably been hoping to separate Servia from Greece and to secure the neutrality of Roumania in the event of a rupture with Greece leading to a resumption of hostilities with this country, and that the Roumanian Minister of the Interior, in an interview he had with Talaat Bey on board the Roumanian steamer carrying M. Take Jonesco to Athens, clearly intimated that Roumania would not remain a spectator of events likely further to upset the basis of the Balkan equilibrium established by the Treaty of Bucharest. This, coupled with the financial argument, seems to have decided the Turkish Government somewhat reluctantly to agree to the signature of peace with Greece, leaving the solution of the Ægean islands question to the Powers.

During the two days spent here on his return journey, M. Take Jonesco emphasised in a press interview the moral obligation of Roumania to ensure respect for the Treaty of Bucharest, and, though he was feted by the Turkish Government, there would seem reason to suppose that this attitude and the interposition of Roumania has not been cordially welcomed by the Salonican and Macedonian elements in the Committee. The latter have not given up hope that circumstances arising out of the islands question

may afford an opportunity, in conjunction with Bulgaria, to alter the present status in Salonica and its Macedonian hinterland. In such circumstances it is more than doubtful if the intervention of Roumania, were she disposed to exercise her influence a second time, would prove efficacious.

Now that peace has been signed with Greece, the Ottoman Government has begun seriously to negotiate with the Servian delegate, who arrived here in July last, and it is anticipated that the negotiations will be rapidly concluded on the basis of the Turco-Greek and Turco-Bulgarian treaties. It would seem, in fact, a matter of copying the main provisions of the treaties.

I have, &c.
LOUIS MALLET.

[53210] No. 327

Mr. Akers-Douglas to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received November 24.*)

(No. 71.)
Sir, *Cettinje, November 18, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the new frontier between Montenegro and Servia has now been settled and a convention to that effect signed at Belgrade. I transmit herewith copy of a memorandum dictated from the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, which gives an outline of the frontier.

Montenegro obtains a large portion of the sanjak of Novibazar, and now holds within her territories the towns of Djakova, Ipek, Bijelopolje, Plevlje, Gusinje, and Plava, with about half of the rich plain of the Metochia. By these acquisitions she nearly doubles her population, counting, it is roughly estimated, about 200,000 new subjects. Some of the new lands, especially near Plevlje and Djakova, are said to be very fertile, promising a considerable amount of corn, and capable of much development. Some mineral wealth is believed to exist in the neighbourhood of Berane and of Ipek.

I have, &c.
A. AKERS-DOUGLAS.

Enclosure in No. 327.

Memorandum communicated by Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs.

PARTANT de la frontière de la Bosnie-Herzegovine au nord de la cote 1586 près de Gradina, la ligne passe au nord du village de Dekare, traverse la cote 1386, passe entre les villages Djakovich et Kukarevich, coupe la petite rivière Poblenitza à l'ouest du village de Vrtaca. De là elle va aux environs de Pjevcevoglava à la cote 1386, et continue sur la montagne Vis (1132) à la cote 1222 à Medjusat (1405), Kapavica (1143), Tchernierno (1420 et 1306), Klik (1351), et jusqu'à Koracina (1150). De là elle descend par Kamen (1398) à 7 kilom. à l'est de la vallée de Plevlje par les cotes 1412 et 1406, et coupant la route Plevlje-Prjepolje entre le han et le blockhaus turc arrive à la cote 1304. De là elle continue par les montagnes Crni Vrh (1347) jusqu'à la cote 1496, où elle descend au nord-ouest, passant par les cotes 1412, 1213 et 1441 sur une autre chaine nommée Crni Vrh, cotes 1387, 1492, jusqu'à la montagne de Vranatz, où la ligne tourne à l'est et arrivant à la cote 1354 descend, par Bukovgrob (1226), Ranjevo brdo (1306), vers le sud jusqu'à Kicevsko brdo (1250), de là, de nouveau, vers l'est à côté du village de Kanjo Ukranjen, qui reste à la Serbie, et Matanac, qui reste au Montenegro. Passant à la hauteur entre ces deux villages, la ligne traverse la rivière Lim et atteint Smrtchevagora en laissant les villages de Voljevič et Borcetič au Montenegro et celui de Barc à la Serbie. Ensuite elle arrive à un sommet sans nom (1900) en laissant le village de Mgistir au Montenegro et celui de Visnjevo à la Serbie, continue jusqu'à la cote 1700 et arrive à Kruchitza (1609), ayant laissé les villages Pozegorje, Suvinopolje, Donja Korita, Mirralle, Gornja-Korita au Montenegro et Cserbsko à la Serbie. De Krichitza la ligne arrive à Vis Moravač (1450), passe à l'ouest de la rivière Kraska, descend jusqu'à la cote 1518, continuant par les hauteurs de Gradine, Biknovo Shume, par la rivière Dolovska, et arrive à la rivière Ibar. De là, par Jablanica à la cote 1700, suit la crête de Mokra Planina dans la direction de l'est jusqu'à un sommet sans nom d'où elle entre dans la rivière Rakosh, suit cette rivière

jusqu'à Klina, suit la rivière Klina jusqu'à son confluent avec le Drin blanc et ensuite par cette rivière jusqu'à la frontière albanaise [i.e., at Schwanski Most, near Ragova, south-east of Djakova].

(N.B. The numbers of the heights correspond with those of the Austrian General Staff Map, 1/200,000.)

[53772] No. 328.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 146.
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 25, 1913.*

THE Greek Minister asked me to-day about the question of the Ægean islands.

I said that it had not been raised amongst the Great Powers for the last few months. I observed that Greece was in occupation of the islands, and I asked him why he mentioned the matter.

He said that he did so only incidentally, but there were unfavourable rumours to the effect that the islands, or some of them, were to be formed into a Confederation apart from Greece.

I said that I could not say that no Power was likely to raise the question of the islands, but it had not been raised lately, and as Greece was in possession I did not see that it was to her interest that it should be raised, nor had I thought it wise to raise it.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[52567.] No. 329.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 712.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 28, 1913.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith three copies of a despatch from Sir Paul Harvey, British delegate on the Balkan Financial Commission, which has recently been examining questions of a financial order arising out of the war in the Near East.†

As I understand that the re-assembling of the Commission is likely to prove necessary before long, I think that it may be convenient that the Government to which you are accredited should now be furnished confidentially with a copy of Sir P. Harvey's despatch, and I accordingly have to request you to adopt this course and to ask that His Majesty's Government may, in due course, be furnished with their observations on the points in question.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[53940.] No. 330.

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November 29.*)

(No. 326. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Rome, November 23, 1913.*

THE polemics in the French and Italian press to which His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris has alluded in a recent despatch, now show some signs of abating in Italy. Ever since the French press comments on the action taken at Athens by the Italian and Austro-Hungarian Governments alone in regard to Greek interference with the work of the International Frontier Commission in Southern Albania, the tone of the Italian newspapers has been almost hostile. The real reason for this I believe to be the conviction which has become common throughout Italy that France is supporting Greek pretensions and aspirations, not only over the Albanian frontier but also in connection with the Ægean islands. There have been many indications of late which

* Also to Sir E. Goschen (No. 315), Mr. Dering (No. 298), Mr. O'Beirne (No. 391), and Sir M. de Bunsen (No. 210).
† No. 301.

lead me to infer that the Italian Government share this opinion, which may be the reason why no steps have been taken to pounce the Italian press to moderate their attitude towards France. However, the Italian press appear to have exhausted for the moment their stock of sarcastic and acrimonious remarks, and it may be that the battle has ended for want of fresh ammunition. The fact remains that Greece is not popular in this country at present.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs is certainly appreciative of the role which Greece is likely to play in the Eastern Mediterranean in the event of her securing the permanent mastery of, at all events, those islands of the Ægean which she at present occupies. The questions recently addressed to him on this behalf by Marquis Imperiali on the subject of those islands would alone prove as much. Marquis di San Giuliano has told me in plain language that the interests the French Government and their policy with regard to Greece, and to the Turkish Ambassador he has been still more frank, saying that a strong naval Power such as Greece was liable to cause trouble in the Ægean, would be good for Italy seeing that in the event of a conflict between the two great European groups of Powers all her support would be extraordinarily valuable to France and to the Triple *Entente*. Marquis di San Giuliano has even hinted at this fear to the Turkish Ambassador, and Italy would, of course, like at the present juncture Rhodes and the other islands occupied by her troops, France's support to any Russian possibly British or Great British move in favour of those authorities as regards Greek aspirations, and I feel sure that, if Greece, finding she make a stand, should secure the surrender of Crete, this suggestion from Italy's ally, would be utterly opposed by Italy and immediately resisted by Turkey.

As my remarks of the 21st November to Marquis Imperiali show, the Ægean question is in a phase that there is sufficient excuse to get out of it. It is true that there is not only much excitement and curiosity here but also a strong sentiment, an intense longing possess Rhodes at least of the islands, so that the cry of "Redi Italiani" is a very strong one. It is also a fact that the Italian Government have gone further towards evacuation of Tripoli than they represented assurances abroad, tending mainly to the Turkish Ambassador's credit, but without attention to so do. Naby Bey has pointed out to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that some forty Turkish regulars remain in Cyrenaica, that these are not prisoners by the Sanussi and are not repatriated from leaving the country, and that in order to comply with the provisions of the Lausanne Treaty the Ottoman Government has struck these men off the roll of the Turkish army. If this is correct there are no longer, as I have suspected for some time, any Turkish soldiers left in Cyrenaica, although the Italian Government may argue that the forty or so who have got away are the only actual Turkish soldiers. I have not gathered that Naby Bey's object in thus, to a contrary, Naby Bey was quite recently assured by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, personally and officially, that Italy did not intend to surrender the islands to Turkey, as I expressed to me his conviction that Italy would do very shortly, but only deterred by the fear that they might then be adjudged to Greece.

Discussing Italian policy towards Turkey Naby Bey intimated to me that it was the intention of Marquis di San Giuliano to attempt valuable concessions in Asia Minor, perhaps in order to obtain Turkish active support against Greece. Marquis di San Giuliano has recently made the hint, in course of conversation with him, of the services rendered by Germany to Italy to Turkey. These services, the Ambassador observed to me, are small indeed really amount to a row of pins. For instance, he had been asked to be instrumental Italy even had a hand in obtaining the retrocession of Varna and Dobrudja to Turkey, which, said Naby Bey, was most certainly an exaggeration. It was interesting to observe throughout the Ambassador's remarks the Oriental tendency to intrigue group of European Powers against the other, to the probable benefit of his own country. He professed himself keenly anxious to secure the surrender to Turkey of Rhodes and the other islands, and I think he is sincere.

Still I feel it my duty to mention the idea which occurs to me that, rather than contemplate the possibility of Marquis di San Giuliano's fears becoming realised and see those islands in the possession of Greece Turkey might even prefer to see them retained by a friendly Power for at least some time longer, and might be induced to suggest this to Italy if she saw any signs of a proposal of the kind. Or Turkey might, on receiving back the islands ask for or be offered Italy's guarantee for support in the event of a Greek attack on the islands or any attempt to dispossess her. At present, however, if Naby Bey is to be believed as to his communicated representations to the Italian Government, there appears to be no question of any such intention on the part of the Ottoman Government.

To revert to the Franco-Italian press polemics, I have to report that last Friday Signor Luzzati a staunch friend to France, published two vigorous articles in the Milanese "Corriere della Sera" and the Roman "Italie," strongly advocating a return to reason. He pointed out that there were no real grounds for France and Italy to disagree, that Germany and Austria-Hungary did not hesitate to cultivate friendly relations and carry on negotiations with the Powers of the Triple *Entente* while still preserving their loyalty to the Triple Alliance. Why, then, should not Italy do likewise? He urged the advantage to Italy of a frank understanding with Great Britain and France in the interests of the new Libyan colonies, and declared that the alleged difference of interests between France and Italy was not real, and would be heard of no more when the press of both countries had allowed their better sense to prevail. No English or Russian newspapers had attacked Italy on subjects connected with Greece, which interested both these countries as much as France. He ended his extremely significant exhortation by warning the Italian and French Governments of the grave responsibility which they would be assuming in permitting press polemics to continue, tending to separate two countries which ought to be co-operating. Europe requires peace to be added, and will have it at any price.

Signor Luzzati's pen is powerful in Italy just now, while he is known in France as a friend, so it is not unlikely that the modification of tone to which I alluded at the beginning of this despatch may also be due in some measure to the publication of his signed articles.

I have, &c.
HERBERT G. DERING.

54108. No. 331

Mr. G. Barnes to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 359.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, November 24, 1913.*

THE conclusion of peace between Turkey and Greece through the intermediary of the Roumanian Prime Minister could not fail to give rise to some bitter reflections in St. Petersburgh. A short time ago it would have been natural to expect Russia and Servia to appear as the champion between these two antagonists, and it is necessarily galling to Russia to see Roumania successfully filling a part which Russia attempted and failed to take on herself at the moment when war was about to break out between Bulgaria and her former allies. Nor has the soreness caused here by the recent course of events in the Balkans been diminished by the present attitude of King Ferdinand and of Austro-Hungarian statesmen who are now in control at Sophia.

Russian publicists naturally complain of the ingratitude of the Balkan States. They point out that when Austro-Hungarian influence in the councils of the Near East, during the Balkan campaign of 1912, Russia by threatening an extra force of 400,000 men on her own, kept the Dual Monarchy in check and saved the Allies from an Austrian advance in their rear which must have been fatal to their plans. In addition to the inestimable service thus rendered to the Allies Russia supplied Bulgaria during the campaign with money, arms, ammunition and stores, without which the Bulgarian railways lacked, and without which the victorious advance of the Allies would have been arrested at Adrianople. It might have been supposed after these occurrences that counsels preferred by Russia at Sophia, Belgrade and Athens would have been allowed the force of commands. Yet when Russia came on the Allies to submit their quarrels to her arbitration the reply which she received from each was tantamount to a refusal.

When Russians complain of the ingratitude of their Balkan protégés they are apt to forget that the Balkan States on their side have during the past twelve months been severely disillusioned with regard to the extent of the support which they could expect from Russia. Events have shown that when the territorial expansion of the Balkan States brought them into opposition with the wishes and plans of Austria-Hungary, Russia was not disposed to run the risk of war in the interests of her protégés, even though those interests were of first rate importance. Russia's decision was no doubt a wise one, but something more had unquestionably been expected of her by the Balkan peoples, and also, as I believe, by the majority of Russians themselves. The present policy which she adopted during the recent complications could

not but react unfavourably, for the time being at least, on her influence and prestige in the Balkan Peninsula.

I have, &c.
HUGH O'BEIRNE.[1]

[54499] No. 332.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 202.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December 2, 1913.*

RATIFICATIONS of Treaty of Athens, which confirms Treaty of London, having been exchanged, the proclamation of the annexation of Crete may be expected at any moment. The Prime Minister made a declaration in the Chamber to that effect on 27th November.

[54499] No. 333.

Sir Edward Grey to Earl Granville.

(No. 736.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 5, 1913.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a telegram[2] from His Majesty's Minister in Athens stating that the Greek Government may shortly proclaim the formal annexation of Crete.

It would, in the circumstances, seem advisable that an early decision should be taken as to the recognition of the annexation by the Powers, alluded to in M. Pichon's note of the 8th ultimo, enclosed in Sir F. Bertie's despatch No. 550 of the 8th ultimo.

I would suggest, for the consideration of the French Government, that as soon as possible after the proclamation of annexation at Athens the protecting Powers should inform the Greek Government that they are prepared to accord recognition by hauling down their flags, but only after the indemnities to M. Zaimis and the rural guard's family have been paid and the necessary assurances received respecting the Cretan Loan.

Should this suggestion meet with the concurrence of the French Government, I would then propose to communicate it to the four other Powers concerned.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[55738] No. 334.

Memorandum communicated by M. Cambon, December 9, 1913.

LA succursale de la Banque Impériale ottomane à Uscub s'est adressée à la Légation de France à Belgrade pour obtenir la restitution de diverses sommes qui ont été saisies par les autorités serbes dans les caisses de cette agence et dont la plus grande partie représentait les fonds du vilayet.

Cette réclamation est la conséquence de la situation faite aux agences de la Banque ottomane par les armées d'occupation dans les Balkans. Lors de la conquête de la Turquie d'Europe par les armées alliées, diverses administrations et institutions gouvernementales ottomanes étaient titulaires de comptes courants et de comptes de dépôts dans les agences de la banque, et ces comptes présentaient même en certains cas des soldes créditeurs très importants.

Or, ainsi que cela s'est passé pour Uscub et dans d'autres villes, les autorités balkaniques ont exigé et obtenu, malgré les protestations des agents de la Banque ottomane, la remise des sommes représentant le montant des soldes créditeurs, des comptes courants ouverts au nom des caisses provinciales et de diverses autres administrations et institutions gouvernementales ottomanes.

La Banque ottomane, en présence de ces actes, qui portent un grave préjudice à ses intérêts, a demandé leur avis sur la question de droit à des jurisconsultes de France et d'Angleterre comme M. Fromageot, Mr. Geoffrey Lawrence et Sir Robert Finlay.

[1] No. 332.

Les conclusions de ces jurisconsultes ont été identiques: les autorités balkaniques n'avaient pas le droit de se faire remettre et de s'approprier aucune somme représentant les soldes créditeurs d'aucun compte courant ouvert auprès des agences de la Banque ottomane; elles avaient seulement le droit de former pour la durée des hostilités avec un avis des succursales de cet établissement, une opposition à tout désaisissement d'aucun solde de compte courant existant au crédit de l'État ottoman auprès desdites agences.

Dans ces conditions, la demande formulée par la Banque Impériale ottomane lui paraissant légitime, le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de la république a invité le Chargé d'Affaires de France à Belgrade à l'appuyer auprès du Gouvernement serbe. En raison du caractère franco-anglais de la banque, la démarche du représentant français à Belgrade aurait plus de poids si son collègue britannique était autorisé à agir avec lui.

L'Ambassadeur de France a été chargé de demander à son Excellence le Secrétaire d'État de bien vouloir adresser des instructions dans ce sens au Ministre de Grande-Bretagne en Serbie.

M. Paul Cambon saisit, &c.

Ambassade de France. Londres.
le 9 décembre, 1913.

[55753] No. 335.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 204.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December 10, 1913.*

THE Prime Minister proposes to proceed to Canea on 14th December in a ship of war and hoist flag. He hopes that the consuls will receive him ceremonially.

He confirms that the Minister for Foreign Affairs will officially communicate to the representatives of the Powers the Treaties of London and Bucharest and Athens, in lieu of notifying the annexation of Crete or other territories.

[55753] No. 336.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 11, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 204 of the 10th December, and my circular telegram to Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Rome of the 11th December, Annexation of Crete.

You should inform Greek Government of my proposal, and say that they are giving us very little time, and suggest proclamation might be postponed for a short while.

[55753] No. 337.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 444.)
Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 11, 1913.*

MY despatch No. 735.

His Majesty's Minister at Athens reports that King of Greece and Prime Minister will proceed to Crete on 14th December and proclaim annexation.

You should inform Government to which you are accredited that it appears to me advisable that representatives of the Powers at Athens should be instructed to inform Greek Government that the Powers are ready to recognise annexation at once, subject to satisfactory assurances on the two points of the guarantees and the loan. His Majesty's Minister will be directed to act accordingly when I hear that the Powers are unanimous.

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* Also to Sir E. Goschen (No. 412), Sir M. de Bunsen (No. 333), Mr. O'Beirne (No. 788), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 36), *mutatis mutandis*.

[55943] No. 338

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 978.)

Sir, *Athens, December 5, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith extracted from the "Messager d'Athènes" the report of the two days' debate which took place in the Greek Chamber on the Treaty of Athens between Greece and Turkey.* Copies of the treaty were enclosed in my despatch of the Treaty Series, No. 75 of the 3rd instant.

The debate is so full of interest that it is difficult to summarise, but I may call attention to some of the points made by M. Venizelos. He admitted that in some respects a more favourable terms might have been expected, but said that after Bulgaria had failed before Chatalja, owing to the mistake of refusing Greek and Servian assistance, and had committed the error of signing the armistice Turkey was able to negotiate on equal terms. He admitted that it would have been better to provide for the protection of Moslem institutions by law than by treaty, but thought it would have been unwise to press matters on a point of form. (The Minister for Foreign Affairs has told me that these matters were arranged in every way to reassure the Moslem population, and keep them in the country; they had the right that this effect would be better procured by stipulating in a treaty certain measures which they would in any case have carried out, but which would otherwise have remained mere promises until the necessary legislation had been passed.)

M. Venizelos dwelt at length on the integrity of the State and on the safeguards in the treatment of the Vacouf question. The amount that Greece should take over, as Bulgaria's share, in the charge upon property for Vacouf tithes and under grants from the Sultan, has been successfully resisted.

As regards Crete, he said, "Crete was *en dépôt* in the hands of the four Powers under the suzerainty of the Sultan and the Sultan's renunciation of his rights by the Treaty of London was a preliminary act. In the Treaty of Bucharest a definite act, neither the Sultan nor the Powers appeared as contracting parties. Thus only the Treaty of Athens, ratifying the preliminary agreement of London, abolished the last traces of the suzerainty of Turkey in Crete. The annexation will consequently be proclaimed immediately after the ratification of the treaty."

Replying to a violent anti-Russian attack of M. Skhilly's M. Venizelos laid stress upon the identity of the interests of Greece and Roumania now that the Kontso-Vlach question was settled the way, and bore testimony to the value of Roumanian assistance during the Bulgarian retreat from Bucharest, and he foretold the day when the two States would be not only friends, but allies, walking hand in hand with complete community of interests.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT

[55934] No. 339.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.— Received December 12.)

(No. 610.)

Sir, *Paris, December 11, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, replying to the communication which Earl Granville addressed to his Excellency's predecessor in accordance with the instructions contained in your despatch No. 735 of the 5th instant, informed me that he is in entire agreement with His Majesty's Government as regards the procedure to be followed in recognizing the annexation of Crete to Greece.

M. Doumergue considers that the hauling down of the flags ought to be made conditional on the payment of the indemnities due from the Cretan Government and on the receipt of favourable assurances from Greece as regards the paying off of the loan of 1881.

M. Doumergue adds that the French Ambassador at London has been directed to make a communication in this sense to your Department in view of the identic telegram which the Representatives in Crete of the Protecting Powers have addressed

* Not printed.

to their Governments requesting the immediate despatch of instructions in anticipation of Greek troops being shortly landed in the island.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE

[55934] No. 340.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 145.)

(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, December 12, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 143 of 11th December. Annexation of Crete.

You may act officially in the sense of my proposal to the five Powers as soon as your colleagues have received necessary instructions.

You should keep vice-consul in Canea instructed according to the requirements of the situation.

[56119] No. 341

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey. (Received December 13.)

(No. 2.45.)

Sir, *Athens, December 1, 1913.*

I HAVE obtained from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, and have the honour to transmit as documents of historical interest, copies of the Treaty of Alliance of the 16th (29th) May, 1912, between Greece and Bulgaria, and of the Military Convention of the 22nd September (5th October), 1912, which supplemented the treaty.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT

Enclosure 1 in No. 341.

Treaty of Alliance between Greece and Bulgaria.

CONSIDÉRANT que les deux royaumes désirent fermement la conservation de la paix dans la Péninsule balkanique et qu'ils peuvent pourvoir à une alliance défensive seule à même répondre à ce besoin,

Considérant, en outre, que l'établissement d'un ordre durable dans la coexistence pacifique des différentes nationalités en Turquie, sur la base d'une égalité politique réelle et véritable et du respect des droits reconnus par les traités ou autrement concédés aux nationalités chrétiennes de l'Empire, constituent des conditions nécessaires pour la consolidation de l'état de choses en Orient,

Considérant, enfin, qu'une coopération des deux royaumes dans le sens indiqué est de nature à servir l'intérêt même de leurs bons rapports avec l'Empire ottoman, à faciliter et à corroborer l'entente des éléments grec et bulgare en Turquie,

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes et le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi des Bulgares se promettant de ne pas donner une tendance aggressive, quelconque à leur accord purement défensif et ayant résolu de conclure une alliance de paix et de protection réciproque dans les termes ci-dessous indiqués, ont nommé pour leurs plénipotentiaires savoir

Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes: M. Démétrius Panas, son Envoyé extraordinaire et Ministre plénipotentiaire à Sofia, Commandeur de l'Ordre Royal du Sauveur, &c. et

Sa Majesté le Roi des Bulgares: M. Ivan Evstratief Guéchof, son Président du Conseil et Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et des Cultes, Grand-Croix de l'Ordre de Saint-Alexandre, &c.,

Lesquels, après avoir échangé leurs pleins pouvoirs, ont arrêté ce qui suit:

ARTICLE 1er.

Si, contrairement au sincère désir des deux hautes parties contractantes et en dépit d'une attitude de leurs Gouvernements évitant tout acte d'agression et toute provocation vis-à-vis de l'Empire ottoman, l'un des deux États venait à être attaqué

par la Turquie, soit dans son territoire, soit par une atteinte systématique aux droits découlants des traités ou des principes fondamentaux du droit des gens, les deux hautes parties contractantes sont tenues à se prêter réciproquement secours avec la totalité de leurs forces armées, à par suite à ne pas conclure la paix que conjointement et d'accord.

ARTICLE 2.

Les deux hautes parties contractantes se promettent mutuellement, d'un côté, d'user de leur influence morale auprès de leurs congénères en Turquie, afin qu'ils contribuent sincèrement à la coexistence pacifique des éléments constituant la population de l'Empire, et de l'autre côté de se prêter une assistance réciproque et de marcher d'accord dans toute action auprès du Gouvernement ottoman ou auprès des Grandes Puissances, qui aurait pour but d'obtenir ou d'assurer la réalisation des droits découlant des traités ou autrement concédés aux nationalités grecque et bulgare, l'application de l'égalité politique et des garanties constitutionnelles.

ARTICLE 3.

Le présent traité aura une durée de trois ans à partir du jour de sa signature et sera renouvelé tacitement pour une année sauf dénonciation. La dénonciation doit être notifiée au moins six mois avant l'expiration de la troisième année à partir de la signature du traité.

ARTICLE 4.

Le présent traité sera gardé secret. Il ne pourra être communiqué à une tierce Puissance soit intégralement, soit en partie, ni divulgué en partie ou en tout, qu'avec le consentement des deux hautes parties contractantes.

Le présent traité sera ratifié le plus tôt que faire se pourra. Les ratifications seront échangées à Sophia (ou à Athènes).

En foi de quoi les plénipotentiaires respectifs ont signé le présent traité et y ont apposé leurs cachets.

Fait à Sophia, en double expédition, le 16 mai, 1912.

D. PANAS.
I. GUÉCHOF.

Declaration.

L'article 1er ne se rapporte notamment pas au cas où une guerre viendrait à éclater entre la Grèce et la Turquie par suite de l'admission dans le Parlement grec des députés crétois contre la volonté du Gouvernement ottoman ; dans ce cas, la Bulgarie n'est tenu qu'à garder vis-à-vis de la Grèce une neutralité bienveillante. Et comme la liquidation de la crise des affaires d'Orient née des événements de 1908, aussi quant à la question crétoise, correspond à l'intérêt général, et est même de nature, sans troubler l'équilibre dans la péninsule balkanique, à y consolider dans l'intérêt de la paix la situation internationale, la Bulgarie (indépendamment des engagements assumés par le présent traité) promet de ne gêner d'aucune façon une action éventuelle de la Grèce qui tiendrait à la solution de cette question.

D. PANAS.
I. GUÉCHOF.

Enclosure 2 in No. 341.

Military Convention.

SA Majesté le Roi des Hellènes et Sa Majesté le Roi des Bulgares, désirant compléter par une Convention militaire le Traité d'Alliance conclu à Sophia le 16 mai, 1912, entre le Royaume de Grèce et le Royaume de Bulgarie, ont dans ce but nommé pour leurs plénipotentiaires :

Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes : son Excellence M. D. Panas, Envoyé extraordinaire et Ministre plénipotentiaire de Grèce à Sophia, Commandeur de l'Ordre Royal du Sauveur, &c. ; et M. le Capitaine J. Métaxas, Aide de Camp du Ministre de la Guerre de Grèce ;

Sa Majesté le Roi des Bulgares : son Excellence M. Iv. Ev. Guéchof, Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et des Cultes de Bulgarie, Grand-Croix de l'Ordre de Saint-Alexandre, &c. ; et M. le Général Iv. Fitchef, Chef d'État-Major Général de l'Armée bulgare, Grand-Croix de l'Ordre du Mérite militaire ;

Lesquels, après s'être communiqué leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont convenus de ce qui suit :

ARTICLE 1er.

Dans le cas où, conformément aux obligations découlant du Traité d'Alliance défensive conclu à Sophia le 16 mai, 1912, entre la Grèce et la Bulgarie, la Grèce interviendrait militairement contre la Turquie dans une guerre bulgaro-turque, ou bien la Bulgarie dans une guerre greco-turque, les deux États grec et bulgare s'engagent à se prêter mutuellement secours, soit la Grèce avec un effectif atteignant au minimum 120,000 hommes, et la Bulgarie avec un effectif d'au moins 300,000 hommes ; ces forces devront être apte aussi bien à entrer en campagne sur la frontière qu'à prendre part à des opérations militaires en dehors des limites du territoire national.

Les troupes susindiquées devront être concentrées à la frontière et à même de la franchir au plus tard le vingtième jour qui aura suivi la mobilisation ou l'avis donné par l'une des parties contractantes que le *casus fœderis* s'est produit.

ARTICLE 2.

Au cas où Grèce viendrait à être attaqué par la Turquie, la Bulgarie s'engage à déclarer la guerre à cette dernière Puissance et à entrer en campagne contre elle avec l'ensemble de ses forces, fixées, aux termes de l'article 1er, à un minimum de 300,000 hommes, en conformant ses opérations militaires au plan élaboré par l'état-major bulgare.

Au cas où la Bulgarie viendrait à être attaquée par la Turquie, la Grèce s'engage à déclarer la guerre à cette dernière Puissance et à entrer en campagne contre elle avec l'ensemble de ses forces fixées, aux termes de l'article 1er, à un minimum de 120,000 hommes, en conformant ses opérations militaires au plan élaboré par l'état-major grec. L'objectif principal de la flotte hellénique devra toutefois être de se rendre maîtresse de la mer Égée et d'interrompre les communications par cette voie entre l'Asie Mineure et la Turquie d'Europe.

Dans les cas prévus aux deux paragraphes précédents, la Bulgarie s'engage à opérer offensivement avec une partie importante de son armée contre les forces turques concentrées dans la région des vilayets de Kossovo, Monastir et Salonique. Si la Serbie, en vertu de ses accords avec la Bulgarie, prend part à la guerre, la Bulgarie pourra disposer de la totalité de ses forces militaires en Thrace ; mais dans ce cas elle prend par le présent acte l'engagement avec la Grèce que des forces militaires serbes, d'un effectif d'au moins 120,000 combattants, opéreront offensivement contre les forces turques concentrées dans la régions des trois vilayets susmentionnés.

ARTICLE 3.

Si la Grèce et la Bulgarie, aux termes d'une entente préalable, déclarent la guerre à la Turquie, elles sont l'une et l'autre tenues—à moins qu'il n'en soit disposé autrement par un accord spécial—de faire entrer en campagne les effectifs prévus à l'article 1er de la présente convention.

Les dispositions des deux derniers paragraphes de l'article 2 sont dans ce cas aussi applicables.

ARTICLE 4.

Au cas où l'un des Gouvernements contractants déclarerait la guerre à un État autre que la Turquie sans une entente préalable et sans le consentement de l'autre Gouvernement, ce dernier est délié des obligations exposées à l'article 1er, mais reste néanmoins tenu d'observer, pendant toute la durée de la guerre, une neutralité amicale à l'égard de son allié.

ARTICLE 5.

En cas de guerre conjointe, aucun des États alliés ne pourra conclure d'armistice d'une durée supérieure à vingt-quatre heures sans une entente préalable et sans le consentement de l'autre État allié.

L'entente des deux parties contractantes, contenue dans un accord écrit, sera de même nécessaire pour que l'une d'elles puisse engager des négociations en vue de la paix ou conclure un traité de paix.

ARTICLE 6.

Dans le cas où la Grèce et la Bulgarie ayant mobilisé leurs forces armées ou étant entrées en campagne, la Grèce se verrait obligée de régler la question crétoise suivant les vœux des populations de d'île et serait pour cela attaquée par la Turquie, la Bulgarie s'engage à se porter à son secours conformément à l'article 1er de la présente convention.

ARTICLE 7.

Les chefs d'état-major général des armées grecque et bulgare devront se renseigner mutuellement et en temps opportun sur leurs plans d'opérations en cas d'une guerre. Ils devront, en outre, faire connaître tous les ans les modifications apportées à ces plans du fait de circonstances nouvelles.

ARTICLE 8.

La présente convention deviendra obligatoire pour les deux parties contractantes sitôt après avoir été signée; elle demeurera en vigueur pendant toute la durée du Traité d'Alliance défensive du 16 mai, 1912, auquel elle est incorporée à titre de partie intégrale.

Fait à Sophia, en double exemplaire, le 22 septembre, 1912.

D. PANAS.
J. MÉTAXAS.
I. GUÉCHOF.
I. FITCHEF.

[66617] No. 342.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 215.)
(Telegraphic.) *Decode.* *Athens, December 15, 1913.*

FOLLOWING received from acting consul-general at Canea:—

"Yesterday Greek King, accompanied by Prime Minister, attended *Te Deum*, and then hoisted national flag of Greece on the Firka. Afterwards reception of consuls, who took part in all ceremonies. Afternoon tea on board 'Averof,' where there was an official dinner in the evening, without any speeches.

"His Majesty the King left during the night; Prime Minister will leave on 19th December.

"No untoward incidents took place."

[54753] No. 343.

Sir Edward Grey to Count Mensdorff.

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, December 16, 1913.*

I HAVE given careful consideration to the memorandum of the 27th June, in which your Excellency was good enough to explain to me the nature of the proposals of the Austro-Hungarian Government for securing certain rights to foreign shipping within the territorial waters of the Balkan States. I have now the honour to reply in detail to the considerations advanced by your Excellency on that occasion.

2. I would propose in the first place to explain briefly the treaty position of His Majesty's Government in this matter, since your Excellency alludes to it in your memorandum. Although it is true that the commercial treaties at present in force between the United Kingdom and Greece and Bulgaria are both terminable at one year's notice, His Majesty's Government have no reason to suppose that either Bulgaria

or Greece intend to denounce these treaties for the purpose of altering their shipping legislation to the detriment of British interests. Should they be terminated at any time, His Majesty's Government do not at present see any reason to doubt the readiness of these two States to continue to give equitable treatment to British shipping.

3. In the meanwhile His Majesty's Government maintain, according to their reading of international law, that the obligations imposed by these treaties are extended automatically to any territories annexed by Bulgaria and Greece, and I would add that hitherto the Governments of these two countries have given no indication of not fully sharing this view.

4. As regards the other Balkan States, Servia having no coast-line, need not be considered; the new State of Albania remains bound by the Capitulations, and may possibly continue to be so bound for some time; and in the case of Montenegro, although His Majesty's Government have no treaty which secures any rights in respect of navigation beyond those accorded to the most favoured nation, the British interests involved are not sufficiently important to warrant their desiring any special safeguards. Turkey and Roumania do not, I presume, come within the scope of your Excellency's proposals.

5. From the point of view, therefore, of purely British interests His Majesty's Government see no reason for seeking from the Balkan States on the present occasion any further rights than those they at present enjoy.

6. As a general principle His Majesty's Government are averse from making any attempt to impose on the Balkan States in matters of commerce and navigation any obligation which amounts in practice to a derogation from their sovereign rights. In your Excellency's memorandum it is urged that the proposals of the Austro-Hungarian Government in no way infringe such sovereign rights, but a certain derogation of sovereign rights must, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, inevitably ensue where a Government is compelled to accede, without obtaining any corresponding advantage, to a treaty granting in perpetuity specified rights to foreign States. This, if I am not mistaken, would be the effect of the proposals which your Excellency has now submitted.

7. His Majesty's Government have not failed to take into account the fact that, as pointed out by your Excellency, the system of the Capitulations is at present in force in the territories ceded to the Balkan States, and that in consequence of the cession of these territories that system will now cease. The question might be raised whether it would be proper to insist that the Balkan States, when annexing these territories, should, as an exception to the general rule of international law, be compelled to take over the obligations arising out of the Capitulations hitherto in force within them, or at any rate those particular obligations which apply to commerce and navigation. But even so, such an arrangement would hardly meet the wishes of the Austro-Hungarian Government, seeing that the system in question does not secure all the rights specified in your Excellency's memorandum, and that in any case it would only apply to the new and not to the original territories of the Balkan States.

8. As far as His Majesty's Government are aware, foreign Governments have suffered no injury by the abolition of the Capitulations in Greece, and cannot, therefore, on the ground of past experience, urge the necessity for maintaining them in the ceded territories, and still less for imposing a similar system in both the original and the ceded territories of that State. The same considerations would apply to Bulgaria, for although the Capitulations are still binding on that country, negotiations have for some time past been proceeding with the Powers for their abolition, and, indeed, I understand that the Austro-Hungarian Government have actually renounced them.

9. In your Excellency's memorandum stress is laid on the danger of Bulgaria and Greece making mutually preferential arrangements in the near future at the expense of foreign shipping, or even of forming a hostile Customs Union. After recent political events His Majesty's Government do not consider such a contingency probable. In any case they doubt whether the commercial advantages to be derived by restricting the the liberty of action of the two States in these directions would be commensurate with the ill-feeling which such restrictions would undoubtedly occasion in the future.

10. Should it be decided, notwithstanding the considerations which I have the honour to submit to your Excellency, to endeavour to secure a permanent settlement governing navigation in the Balkan States, His Majesty's Government would suggest for the consideration of the Austro-Hungarian Government that it should be limited to stipulations to which any State might reasonably be expected to assent in an ordinary treaty of navigation, and such, moreover, as the Powers concerned would be prepared themselves to agree to in such a treaty.

11. The actual proposals put forward by the Government of the Dual Monarchy may conveniently be grouped as follows:—

(*a*.) National treatment in the coasting trade.

(*b*.) National treatment in navigation generally, and especially as regards dues, loading, unloading, warehousing, &c.

(*c*.) Stipulation that dues are to be levied only when the service for which they are intended is effectually performed.

(*d*.) Right for foreign vessels to use their own tugs, lighters, workmen, &c., in unloading in Balkan ports.

(*e*.) National treatment in the navigation of rivers, canals, and lakes.

12. As regards these proposals, I have the honour to offer the following observations: (*a*) Your Excellency instances the possibility of the trade between the Piræus and Salonica being declared coasting trade. His Majesty's Government recognise the right of the Greek Government to declare trade between the existing Greek ports and the ports in the newly-acquired territories to be coasting trade, but if the necessity arose, they would be prepared, as already stated in my note of the 14th April, to join in urging the Greek Government in a friendly way to abstain from such a policy. I would add that the present Anglo-Greek commercial treaty secures to British shipping national treatment in the Greek coasting trade.

13. As regards (*b*), His Majesty's Government would not be opposed to an endeavour being made to secure from the Balkan States, on the basis of reciprocity, the prohibition of differential flag duties on merchandise, whether imported, exported, in transit or warehoused, as proposed by the Austro-Hungarian Government, and they would even suggest the extension of the provision so as to include passengers as well. But, in accordance with the principle which I have had the honour to formulate, His Majesty's Government would in that case expect that the Balkan States should be offered a similar undertaking for their own shipping in the ports of the Powers.

14. As regards (*c*), I would point out that His Majesty's Government have received no recent complaints which would point to the need of securing, more especially from Greece and Bulgaria, a stipulation to the effect that dues are only to be levied on shipping when the service for which they are intended is effectually performed.

15. As regards (*d*), His Majesty's Government still maintain the views expressed in my note of the 14th April. The strike of lightermen at Constantinople, to which your Excellency alludes, corresponds in point of time, I presume, to the demonstration which took place in 1894. As a result the Quays Company entered into an arrangement that no lighters but those of the Lightermen's Corporation should be employed by vessels using the quays; and the foreign steamship companies, which possessed lighters of their own, received, as I understand, notice that they must no longer employ them. Recently attempts have been made to persuade the Porte to abolish this monopoly of the lightermen owing to the inefficient service they maintain, and its abolition, as your Excellency is doubtless aware, is one of the conditions which the Powers are seeking to impose in return for their agreement to the application of the temettu tax to foreign firms. But throughout the negotiations the Powers have never claimed the privilege as a right, but merely as a counter-concession in the interests of trade.

16. I gather that there are at present no restrictions in Greek ports to prevent foreign vessels from using their own lighters and tugs, and there is, as far as I know, no reason to fear that the Greek Government will impose any such restrictions on foreign shipping in the ports which they have newly acquired.

17. As regards (*e*), I would venture to suggest that it is open to question whether the Capitulations secure to foreign vessels the right to navigate the inland waters of Turkey generally. In any case His Majesty's Government do not consider the internationalisation of such waters, even if compatible with the principles which I have had the honour to lay down in this note, to be of sufficient practical value to British shipping to justify His Majesty's Government in joining in an attempt to secure it.

18. Lastly, I would call your Excellency's attention to the fact that, of the proposals made by the Austro-Hungarian Government, only (*b*) and (*c*) can be held to fulfil the condition formulated by His Majesty's Government, namely, that the Powers should not endeavour to obtain from the Balkan States rights in excess of those which they themselves would be prepared to grant as part of a mutual agreement.

I have, &c.
E. GREY.

57065] No 344.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 287.)
Sir, *Athens, December 12, 1913.*

AT his reception yesterday morning I remarked to M. Panas, with reference to his note of the day before transmitting copies of the treaties of Bucharest, Athens, and London, by way of a notification of the annexation of Crete and other territories, that there was one document referred to in it which he had not communicated, namely, the arrangement concluded at Belgrade on the 3rd (16th) August last. He replied that it was only a renunciation by Servia of any claims upon Crete. By the Treaty of London the island had been ceded to "the allies"; the renunciation of Bulgaria had been inserted in the Treaty of Bucharest; that of Montenegro was thought unnecessary.

I said I could not officially acknowledge the receipt of his note without instructions from you, and that I fancied there might be one or two points, such as the advance by the four Powers to the Cretan Government, and perhaps some others, in regard to which an agreement would be stipulated as a condition of the annexation. His Excellency said he had no doubt that an agreement would be easily reached upon those points in accordance with general principles and the equity of each case; but he demurred to my assumption that "recognition" was necessary, for annexation was clearly provided for by the Treaty of London, which was signed under your auspices. There was one point which admitted of no doubt: from the moment of notification of annexation the Capitulations were *ipso facto* abolished. That followed as a matter of right from the fact that Greece is a Sovereign State, and it had been admitted without objection at the time of the annexation of Thessaly.

I asked him if he was speaking of Crete only, or of all the annexed territories. "Of all," he replied, and he proceeded to say that some arrangement would be proposed for winding up cases now pending before consular courts.

Having this morning received your circular telegram No. 444 to Paris, and your telegram to me No. 143, both of yesterday's date, I took them with me to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and read them to M. Panas in French. He repeated practically what he had said to me yesterday, and said he was personally convinced that there would be no difficulty in agreeing to your proposals respecting the advance of 4,000,000 fr. and the indemnities. I made it clear to him that I was not authorised to make a "firm" proposal to him, but was only communicating a suggestion made by you to the other Powers.

With regard to your suggestion of a short postponement of the proclamation, he said that all the arrangements had been made for the reception at Canea on the 14th instant of the King, who was to leave to-morrow with M. Venizelos, and he thought it was too late to alter them, but he would see the Prime Minister in an hour, and would let me know what he said.

It was not, however, until I called him up on the telephone this evening that he told me that M. Venizelos had said it was quite impossible now to put off the King's visit to Canea, but there would be no proclamation of annexation. I asked if it was not the fact that the flag was going to be hoisted, which M. Panas admitted. (The newspapers say that it will be the identical flag which was flying when the flagstaff was cut down in 1909 by the seamen of the protecting Powers, and which a Greek officer secured and hid.)

M. Panas added that M. Venizelos had not the slightest objection to giving the assurances required by you with regard to the indemnities and the four Powers' loan. I again reminded him that the mention of those assurances was not yet a formal request for them.

With reference to the representation as to the shortness of the notice, which you instructed me to make by your telegram No. 143 of yesterday, I venture to point out that M. Venizelos made a public declaration of the imminence of annexation in the Chamber on the 27th November, and that I reported it in my telegram No. 202 of the 2nd instant.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[55736] No. 345

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Crackanthorpe

(No. 91.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 22, 1913.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a note from the French Ambassador respecting the seizure by the Servian authorities of certain sums deposited in the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Uskub.*

You will find the opinions of Sir R. Finlay, Mr. Lawrence, and M. Fromageot, to which M. Cambon alludes, as to the illegality of such seizures in the Confidential Print, "Turkish War" sections No. 25 of the 19th May and No. 4 of the 22nd May.

I have no hesitation in concurring in the views of these eminent jurists, and you are therefore authorised to associate yourself with your French colleague in supporting any representations that he may make, or may have made, with a view to obtaining the restitution of the sums in question.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[57763] No. 346.

Draft communicated by Austro-Hungarian Embassy, December 22, and by Italian Embassy, December 24, 1913.

Projet concernant la Neutralisation du Canal de Corfou.

ARTICLE 1er.

SERONT neutralisés sous la garantie des Grandes Puissances européennes :

1. Les îles de Corfou et de Paxo, ainsi que leurs dépendances, y compris leurs eaux territoriales s'étendant vers la haute mer dans une distance de 6 milles marines.

2. Le canal de Corfou compris entre 39° 5' et 40° de latitude nord.

3. Une zone de la côte de la terre ferme, large de 6 milles marines et longeant le canal de Corfou dans toute son étendue neutralisée.

ARTICLE 2.

Aucune force armée, soit navale ou terrestre, ne pourra donc jamais être réunie ou stationnée dans les eaux ou sur les territoires susmentionnés, au delà du nombre strictement nécessaire pour maintenir l'ordre public et pour assurer la perception des revenus de l'État.

ARTICLE 3.

Est interdite la construction de toute œuvre de fortification, de ports militaires, arsenaux et en général de toute œuvre de caractère militaire sur les territoires énumérés à l'article 1er.

ARTICLE 4.

Est interdit tout acte d'hostilité dans les eaux et sur les territoires dont il est question à l'article 1er.

Ne pourront être mises en état de blocus ni les côtes des îles et de la terre ferme neutralisées, ni les deux embouchures nord et sud du canal de Corfou.

Est également interdit de fermer le canal de Corfou par des barrages, obstructions, torpilles, mines, &c.

En cas de guerre, les Puissances belligérantes ne pourront ni embarquer ni débarquer des troupes ou du matériel de guerre dans les eaux et sur les territoires visés à l'article 1er.

* No. 334.

ARTICLE 5.

En temps de paix, les eaux neutralisées seront ouvertes à la libre navigation des navires de tous les États.

Elles seront ouvertes, en temps de guerre, aux navires de commerce ne transportant ni troupes, ni contrebande de guerre.

[58605] No. 347.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Goschen.

(No. 431.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 27, 1913.*

I HEAR from a Turkish source that Italy has made a communication to the Turkish Government to the effect that she will never evacuate the islands in her occupation if the other islands are to go to Greece.

In view of the fact that, in the discussions which took place between the Ambassadors in London and myself in the earlier part of the year, Italy was an active party to the understanding that, if Korytza and Stilos were given to Albania, the other islands in Greek occupation, except Tenedos and Imbros, should go to Greece, this report is hardly credible. But it comes to me from a good source.

It means in effect that Italy is instigating Turkey to upset the understanding on which the settlement of the South Albanian frontier was arrived at.

It is also contrary to the assurances given by Italy to evacuate the islands in her occupation, assurances to which no condition was attached except that of the Treaty of Lausanne, and which were given to us subsequently to understanding about the South Albanian frontier and the islands in Greek occupation.

You should, when there is a reasonable opportunity, inform the German Chancellor, and say that, while I shall await the reply of Italy and her allies to the proposals that I have made, the Italian attitude, if confirmed, will destroy all prospect of agreement in these questions and of settlement of the South Albanian frontier.

The result would be that Italy and Austria would have to deal with the South Albanian frontier without any agreement between the Powers, while Turkey and Greece would be in the same position as regards the islands in Greek occupation.

What the attitude of the respective Powers and the relations between them would become under these complications it is difficult to forecast. I cannot contemplate the prospect without misgiving.

I can suggest no better way of avoiding these undesirable contingencies than the proposals which I have put forward, and which, indeed, had their origin in the existing understandings and assurances of which they were the outcome, and I hope that the German Government will do its utmost to remove the difficulties that are now threatening.

[58627] No. 348.

Sir L. Mallet to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 644.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 30, 1913.*

ITALIAN Ambassador called this morning and spoke more or less in the sense of Rome telegram No. 233 of 27th December.

He is evidently experiencing difficulty about concession with Turks, about which please refer to my immediately preceding telegram, and I gather that he is anxious to come to terms with us.

He said that Nogara was starting for London to negotiate with the Smyrna-Aidin Company on 2nd January.

I hear that the Austrian Ambassador has renewed application for a railway from Adalia to Mersina.

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